

- **Bustamente, Mauricio: Symmetries of exotic negatively curved manifolds (203)**

Let N be a smooth manifold that is homeomorphic but not diffeomorphic to a closed hyperbolic manifold M . To what extent does N admit as much symmetry as M ? In this talk, I will show that it's possible to find N with maximal symmetry, i.e. $\text{Isom}(M)$ acts on N by isometries with respect to some negatively curved metric on N . For these examples, $\text{Isom}(M)$ can be made arbitrarily large. On the other hand, one can also find N with little symmetry, i.e. no subgroup of $\text{Isom}(M)$ of "small" index, acting by diffeomorphisms of N . This is ongoing joint work with Bena Tshishiku.