

Detecting Gerrymandering by Directly Measuring Partisan Bias

What: **Bi-State Colloquium**

When: **Wednesday, March 21, 4pm**

Where: **Loras College, Hennessy 350**

Who: **James Swenson**

Gerrymandering is the process of drawing electoral districts in a way that intentionally favors one political group. Almost everyone agrees that this is a bad thing, but the Supreme Court has said it won't strike down electoral maps as unconstitutionally biased until someone finds a way of measuring exactly how biased they are. In this talk, we'll study some efforts to solve this problem.

This talk is the second in a series, but it'll make sense even if you missed the first one.

James Swenson is in his thirteenth year at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota, studying algebraic topology under the direction of Mark Feshbach. In his other life, he sings in the Platteville Chorale, and roots for his hometown teams: the Twins, Timberwolves, Lynx, Vikings, Gophers, Loons, and Wild.