

Syllabus

MSE 595 – MSE Colloquium Fall 2021

Website: Compass2g

Colloquium Committee Prof. Antonia Statt, Prof. Yingjie Zhang, and Prof. Hua Wang

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We are very pleased to welcome a diverse range of researchers to deliver a series of exciting and stimulating talks. For both faculty and students, the colloquium series is a terrific opportunity to gain exposure to new cutting edge research, and we hope that you enjoy it.

Timing and Location

Please note that the Colloquium is a hybrid course. Some talks will be in-person, and some will be virtual in synchronous Zoom sessions. It is your responsibility to check carefully each week whether the seminar will be in-person or not. Please also monitor closely for changes in campus policies, we will communicate important changes to the Colloquium due to COVID-19 via your official Illinois email. Attendance is required.

Colloquia take place either virtually via Zoom every Monday at 4-5 pm or in-person every Monday at 4-5 pm in MSEB 100. An optional, additional 30 min (5-5:30 pm) is also allocated for extended discussions with the speaker after each colloquium. A speaker list will be provided on the Compass2g course space as well as on the MatSE webpage.

Following University policy, all students are required to engage in appropriate behavior to protect the health and safety of the community. Students are also required to follow the campus COVID-19 protocols.

Recorded video will be available during 6 pm Monday – 6 pm Tuesday Central Time following each colloquium. The videos can be found at media space (<https://mediaspace.illinois.edu/>) by searching for "MatSEColloquiumFall2021". If you cannot find the recorded video within the given time period, email Prof. Statt (statt@illinois.edu) to ask for the web link.

Attendance

Registered students are strongly encouraged to attend the seminar every week. Attendance will be taken automatically when you log in to zoom or when you attend in-person. For Zoom, make sure you use your UIUC zoom account and that your account shows your full name (first name and last name). Please be sure to log in ~10 minutes before the seminar to allow time to resolve possible technical problems. It is the students' own responsibility to assure that they are logged in to zoom, and their full name is shown in the zoom account, before the colloquium starts at 4 pm.

It is our intention that most students attend the colloquium in real time or in-person. However, if you are an international student taking the course remotely, and your time zone does not allow you to attend the live colloquium, you have the option to watch recorded videos as an alternative. The recorded video will be available during 6 pm Monday – 6 pm Tuesday following each colloquium. If you would like to use this option, please fill in the required information (full name, UIN, country, your local time at 4-5 pm Central time) at:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1CJcxvUn7exLG98bx1f54iWkiO4CAJwXlkWhov_VHrI/

If you cannot access google sheet due to Internet restrictions, please email the required information Prof. Statt (statt@illinois.edu). Please note that this option is only guaranteed for International students whose time zone forbids live attendance. If you are in the US you are expected to attend the in-person or zoom colloquium. For domestic students who have very special technical difficulties, please email Prof. Statt at statt@illinois.edu to explain your special situation. These cases will be evaluated and will only be approved in very special situations. Requests of video lecture attendance, whether via the google sheet (International remote learners) or email, need to be made no later than 6 pm on August 22, 2021 (Central Time). After this time, anyone who has not requested video lecture will need to take the course during in-person or live zoom sessions. The list of students permitted to use the video lecture option will be uploaded to compass2g, once it is finalized. If you are permitted the video option, your attendance will only be taken from the video view at Media Space.

Zoom provides duration, start and end time of each participant. If you are logged in throughout 4:01 pm – 4:50 pm, you will be given one full attendance. If you are late or leave early, but are logged in for 30 min during this period, you will be given 0.5 attendance. If you are logged in for less than 30 min, you will be given 0 attendance. Media Space only provides the completion rate of video. Because Media Space does not provide the start and end time, the students using this option will be allowed for 24 hours to access a video and attendance of them will be taken based on the participation record during this time (6 pm Monday to 6 pm Tuesday Central Time following each colloquium). After this 24 hours, video watching will no longer be recorded and will no longer count as attendance.

Absences

This semester we will allow more unexcused absences than before, to account for possible technical problems. Students are permitted 5 absences for the semester.

Please note that 5 absences is a very generous number that is intended to cover all the possible technical problems for remote attendance. We only have 15 colloquium talks in total for this semester. For example, if you attend 8 colloquium talks full time, are a few minutes late for 4 colloquium talks, and completely miss 3 colloquium talks, you will still receive a total of 10 attendances which will be sufficient to receive full course credit. Despite legitimate conflicts that may arise, any more absences than this simply cannot be justified as adequate participation in the course. You do NOT need to ask for permission or excuses for up to 5 absences. Beyond 5 absences, you will not be given credit for this course (no excuses will be permitted).

Students who feel ill must not come to class. In addition, students who test positive for COVID-19 or have had an exposure that requires testing and/or quarantine must not attend class. The University will provide information to the instructor, in a manner that complies with privacy laws, about students in these latter categories. These students are judged to have excused absences for the class period and should contact the instructor via email about making up the work.

Students who fail to abide by these rules will first be asked to comply; if they refuse, they will be required to leave the classroom immediately. If a student is asked to leave the classroom, the non-compliant student will be judged to have an unexcused absence and reported to the Office for Student Conflict Resolution for disciplinary action. Accumulation of non-compliance complaints against a student may result in dismissal from the University.

Attendance Reporting

Attendance will be uploaded on a monthly basis at compass2g. If you believe there is an error in your attendance, please email Prof. Statt (statt@illinois.edu) to clarify the problem within a week of posting of the attendance. Note that technical problems such as Internet connections do not count as "error" – it is your responsibility to ensure you have valid Building Access Status, and that your computer, software, and Internet are working properly.

Engagement in the Colloquium

Students are expected to be fully engaged during the talks, and are encouraged to ask questions. In-person, we will follow our usual conventions of raising hands and asking speakers directly.

Virtually, however, to ensure the quality of the virtual colloquium, everyone will be muted upon entrance. If you have questions, please type in via zoom "chat" or use the "raise hand" feature. The host will narrate your questions to the colloquium speaker or call on you to unmute yourself. Once your question has been answered and you have follow-up question(s), feel free to unmute yourself and discuss with the speaker directly. After 5 pm, if you still have questions, feel free to unmute yourself and engage in discussions with the speaker directly.

When we meet in person, we expect everyone to follow department, university, and state guidelines regarding COVID-19 precautions and safety. This includes wearing a mask (<https://covid19.illinois.edu/health-and-support/face-coverings/>) when indoors **at all times** (<https://covid19.illinois.edu>). This is in accordance with CDC guidance and University policy and expected in this class. When gathering attendance, we may ask students in the classroom to show their Building Access Status in the Safer Illinois app or the Boarding Pass, please make sure you arrive ~10 minutes early.