

**R. Inanç Baykur**

**Title: Lefschetz fibrations and symplectic geography**

**Abstract:** We will talk about our recent construction of symplectic Lefschetz fibrations over the 2-sphere with arbitrary signatures and spin type, along with novel applications to the geography of symplectic 4-manifolds and speculations on exotically knotted surfaces in the 4-sphere. This is joint work with N. Hamada.