

**Stanford University**  
**Departments of Mathematics and Statistics**

PROBABILITY SEMINAR

4pm, Monday, January 27, 2020  
Sequoia Hall Room 200

Refreshments served at 3:30pm in the Lounge.

**Speaker:** Laurent Miclo, *University of Toulouse, France*

**Title:** **Spectral characterization of the metastability phenomenon**

**Abstract:**

The metastability phenomenon occurs when a system quickly reaches an apparent equilibrium, before vanishing in a somewhat unpredictable way. This behavior can be found in various domains and the simplest mathematical model is based on absorbing finite state-space Markov processes. We will present for them a simple spectral characterization, valid even in non-reversible settings.