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"The Interesting Question"

MONDAY, APRIL 7, 2025

2:00-4:00PM

A&H Building, Room 0426. Snacks will be provided.

Alfred North Whitehead wrote that interestingness is more important than truth. Surely, he was onto something: when we find the true answer to a perfectly uninteresting question, nobody cares (or nobody should care). But what is interestingness? Why is it that some questions are interesting, and others are not? Though philosophers have largely ignored these questions, I reckon they matter a great deal (in life as well as in philosophy). In this talk, I will raise some basic questions about the nature of the interesting, connect them to recent issues in the epistemology of inquiry and curiosity, and propose some tentative first steps towards a theory of interestingness.

