Thursday  
March 31st  
4:10 - 5:00 pm  AG 1032

Reception before the talk:  
RH 223 at 3:30 pm

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CYCLIC SYMMETRY? YOU CAN COUNT ON IT!

Many combinatorial objects are counted by simple formulas. Sometimes the formula remains just as simple when we throw in a polynomial variable $q$ and “$q$-count” the objects, or count their analogues over a finite field with $q$ elements. This talk will describe several examples of a surprisingly ubiquitous phenomenon encountered recently (in work with several colleagues): the objects carry a natural cyclic action, and to count the objects with $d$-fold cyclic symmetry, one simply plugs in a complex $d$-th root of unity for $q$. 