



Bio Sketch for Vaughan Jones

What area of maths do you mostly work in?

Von Neumann algebras, knot theory and mathematical physics.

Tell us a bit more...

I study knots in 3-dimensional space which are well modeled by bits of string. They crop up in molecular biology where DNA molecules become tied in knots which have to be undone. I discovered a useful way of telling knots apart. Von Neumann algebras are part of the mathematical apparatus of quantum physics and my work in them is motivated by the physics. I study the situation of how one von Neumann algebra can sit inside another.

What areas of maths do you follow from a purely interest standpoint?

Algebra, analysis, topology, geometry

What were your best and worst subjects at school?

Best: French, Latin

Worst: Social Studies, gym

When you decided you wanted to be a mathematician and why

I still haven't decided.... Never really made a conscious decision, it just happened. Discovered I was good at it already at age 5.

What training (degrees and subjects) you've done

Maths and physics (bachelors)

Maths (masters and PhD)

Also began PhD in physics.

Most interesting place you've travelled with your research

Brazil, Sweden, India, China, Rwanda, Bolivia, Guadeloupe, Aruba, Maui, Japan, Romania, Russia, all over Europe, Mexico, Canada, Tolaga Bay. All great. Hard to pick really.

If you follow sport, what sport, and which team - if not, why not!?

I prefer doing to following. Windsurfing, tennis, squash, kiteboarding, golf, skiing.