

**UBC Seminar of algebraic groups, Galois
cohomology and related topics
Friday, February 6, 10-10:50am, WMAX 110**

Speaker: Burt Totaro (Cambridge)

Title: When does a curve move on a surface, especially over finite fields?

Abstract: We say that a curve moves on a smooth projective algebraic surface if it belongs to a family of curves that covers the whole surface. It is natural to ask when some multiple of a given curve moves. The answer is yes if the curve has positive self-intersection and no if the curve has negative self-intersection. The case of zero self-intersection is hard, in general. We answer some questions about this case by Keel and Mumford.