

BI-CO MATHEMATICS
COLLOQUIUM

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*“The Mathematics of Income
Inequality”*

Monday October 24, 2011

Talk at 4:00 p.m. – Park 338
Tea at 3:45 p.m. – Park 355, Math Lounge

Abstract:

The Gini-Index based on Lorenz Curves of income distributions has long been used to measure income inequality in societies. This single-valued index has the advantage of allowing comparisons among countries and within one country over time. However, being a summary measure, it does not distinguish between intersecting Lorenz curves, and may not detect certain sociological and economic trends over time. We will discuss a new two-parameter model for the Lorenz curves. We will present theoretical and empirical evidence for this model, discuss its mathematical properties, and its potential to discern hidden trends.

This talk will be accessible to all with some knowledge of calculus.

BRYN MAWR COLLEGE