

Einladung zum  
**Mathematischen Kolloquium**

Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg • Fakultät für Mathematik und Informatik

Prof. Dr. Maria Westdickenberg

RWTH Aachen

**Order and disorder: The competition  
between energy and entropy in  
randomly perturbed systems**

Donnerstag, den 13. Dez. 2012 • 16:15 Uhr  
Mathematik Ost (Emil-Fischer-Straße 40), Seminarraum SE40 (Raum 00.001)

**Inhaltsangabe**

Although at first glance a stochastic perturbation destroys the stability of energy minimizers, the probabilistic theory of large deviation reveals that the *most likely* pathways actually solve their own minimization problem. This theory—established in the mathematical literature decades ago with the classic book of Freidlin and Wentzell—treats stochastic ordinary differential equations. Subsequently, it was confirmed that the theory generalizes naturally to stochastic partial differential equations. Recently, there has been progress in pushing large deviation theory to the limit and probing new regimes. In this talk, we will be particularly interested in the competition between energy and entropy that emerges in the case of small noise and large system size. We will present some recent results and give a feeling for the underlying tools.

The talk is intended for a broad audience and no prior knowledge of probability theory will be assumed.



[www.mathematik.uni-wuerzburg.de/kolloquium.html](http://www.mathematik.uni-wuerzburg.de/kolloquium.html)

Zu diesem Vortrag laden wir Sie herzlich ein.  
Im Anschluss an die Vorträge Kaffee und Tee im Foyer vor dem SE40.

Die Dozentinnen und Dozenten der Mathematik

