

# MSCS MESS

Department of Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science  
St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN 55057  
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## Today's Seminar

Title: Relative topological complexity  
and configuration spaces  
Speaker: Steve Scheirer  
Date: **Friday, April 22**  
Time: 4pm  
Location: RNS 204

**About the talk:** The topological complexity of a topological space  $X$  can be interpreted as the minimum number of “continuous rules” needed to describe how to move between any two points in  $X$ . There is a “relative” version of topological complexity in which one only considers paths which start and end in specified subsets of  $X$ , but the paths move throughout all of  $X$ . We’ll discuss relative analogues of standard topological complexity results, then focus on the case in which  $X$  is a configuration space.

**About the speaker:** Steve Scheirer graduated from Lehigh University in 2018 and taught at Ashland University for two years before joining the Department of Mathematics and Statistics

*To submit an article, event, or anything else for publication in the Mess, email [mcgowa2@stolaf.edu](mailto:mcgowa2@stolaf.edu); to receive the Mess digitally each Friday, email [habero1@stolaf.edu](mailto:habero1@stolaf.edu); visit <http://wp.stolaf.edu/mscs/mcs-mess/> for a digital archive of previous MSCS Mess issues.*

at Carleton College in fall 2020 as a visiting assistant professor. His research interests fall under the umbrella of topological robotics and include topological complexity, configuration spaces, and finite spaces. Steve is an avid cyclist and enjoys baking bread and drinking coffee.

## Seniors: Share Your Plans and Memories!

Every spring, the MSCS Mess publishes a special issue highlighting our graduating seniors, including their future plans and their favorite MSCS memories at St. Olaf. If you’re a senior, then please share your plans and/or memories! To do so, fill out **this Google Form**, and please email [mcgowa2@stolaf.edu](mailto:mcgowa2@stolaf.edu) if you have any questions.

## Finally, a Joke...

Q: What’s a Bayesian statistician’s favorite lake in Minnesota?

A: Prior Lake!

David McGowan, Editor  
Laura Boehm Vock, Faculty Adviser  
Ellen Haberoth, Mess Czar