

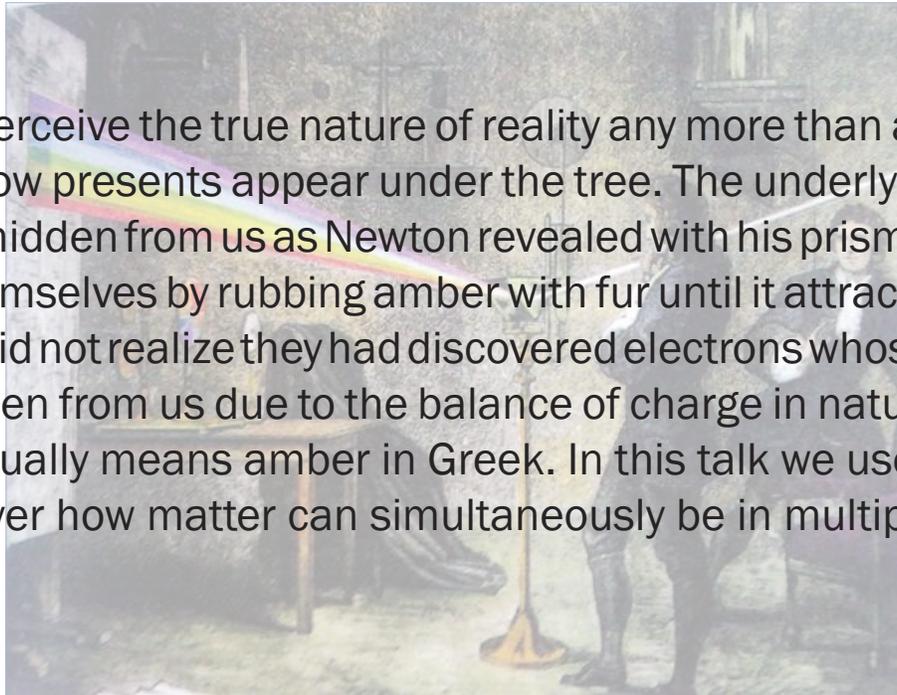
DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS & DATA SCIENCE
Spring 2026 MATH & DATA SCIENCE Colloquium Series

A Candle in the Dark: How mathematics enables us to see the true nature of reality

Dr. Ken Owens

**Department of Mathematics & Data Science
Cal Poly Humboldt**

We do not perceive the true nature of reality any more than a young child perceives how presents appear under the tree. The underlying structure of nature is hidden from us as Newton revealed with his prism. The Greeks amused themselves by rubbing amber with fur until it attracted small objects. They did not realize they had discovered electrons whose effects are usually hidden from us due to the balance of charge in nature. The word electron actually means amber in Greek. In this talk we use mathematics to discover how matter can simultaneously be in multiple locations.



THURSDAY
Jan. 29, 2026

4:00 PM
BSS302

FOR MORE INFO GO TO <https://math.humboldt.edu/get-involved/mathematics-colloquium>

**We cordially invite you to the PRE-COLLOQUIUM TEA in BSS#312
at 3:30 PM**