

February 12, 2020

Illinois State University and Illinois Wesleyan University
jointly present

Dr. Eugenia Cheng

Scientist In Residence, School of the Art Institute of Chicago

The Art of Logic

4:00 pm in CNS C102
Illinois Wesleyan University

For thousands of years, mathematicians have used the timeless art of logic to see the world more clearly. Today, truth is buried under soundbites, spin, memes, divisive arguments and "fake news". Seeing clearly is more important than ever. In this talk, I will show how anyone can think like a mathematician to understand what people are really telling us. Taking a careful scalpel to politics, privilege, sexism and dozens of other real-world situations, I will show that math is not just about numbers and equations, but is about thinking better, and that it can help us find clarity without losing nuance in this complex world of ours.

About the Speaker: Dr Eugenia Cheng is a mathematician and pianist who is a Scientist In Residence at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She won tenure in Pure Mathematics at the University of Sheffield, UK and is now Honorary Visiting Fellow at City, University of London. She has previously taught at the Universities of Cambridge, Chicago and Nice and holds a PhD in pure mathematics from the University of Cambridge. Alongside her research in Category Theory and undergraduate teaching her aim is to rid the world of "math phobia". Her first popular math book, **How to Bake Pi**, was published by Basic Books in 2015 to widespread acclaim including from the *New York Times*, *National Geographic*, *Scientific American*, and she was interviewed around the world including on the BBC, NPR and The Late Show with Stephen Colbert. Eugenia was an early pioneer of math on YouTube and her videos have been viewed around 15 million times to date. Her next popular math book, **Beyond Infinity** was published in 2017 and was shortlisted for the Royal Society Insight Investment Science Book Prize 2017. Her newest book, **The Art of Logic** was published by Profile and Basic Books in July 2018. Eugenia is also math columnist for the *Wall Street Journal*, a concert pianist and founder of the Liederstube.

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Character vs Gender in Mathematics and Beyond

6:30 pm in SCH 138
Illinois State University

I will share what I have learnt from teaching math to art students at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago contrasted with years in more usual academic institutions - what put them off math, ways I have found to change their mind, and how this might be related to the gender imbalances in math, STEM, and beyond.

