1137-14-238   **Oliver Leigh*** (`oleigh@math.ubc.ca`). *r-Spin Hurwitz and Stable Maps with Divisible Ramification.*

r-Spin Hurwitz numbers are a subclass of stationary Gromov-Witten invariants for $\mathbb{P}^1$ where all the psi-classes are raised to the power $r \in \mathbb{N}$. In this talk I will introduce a new geometric approach to r-spin Hurwitz numbers. I do this by constructing a moduli space which parameterises stable maps whose ramification is divisible by r, and showing it has a natural perfect obstruction theory. I will then discuss a proof of Zvonkine's r-ELSV formula using this concept. (Received February 05, 2018)