

“Trying to work with a non-compact (moduli) space is like trying to keep your coins when you have holes in your pocket.”

- A. Vistoli

The Trivial Notions Seminar  
Proudly Announces

From 3264 conics to wonderful  
compactifications

A talk by

Francesco Cavazzani

**Abstract**

How many conics in the projective plane are tangent to 5 general conics? We are going to answer to this question, using the beautiful construction of complete conics, already known to Chasles in 1864. Afterwards, we will go through some of the math generated by this construction in the following 150 years; in particular, we are going to describe the construction by De Concini and Procesi of wonderful compactifications of symmetric spaces, and why they deserve to be called this way. The talk will be very italian style.

Thursday March 7<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00 pm  
Science Center 310