

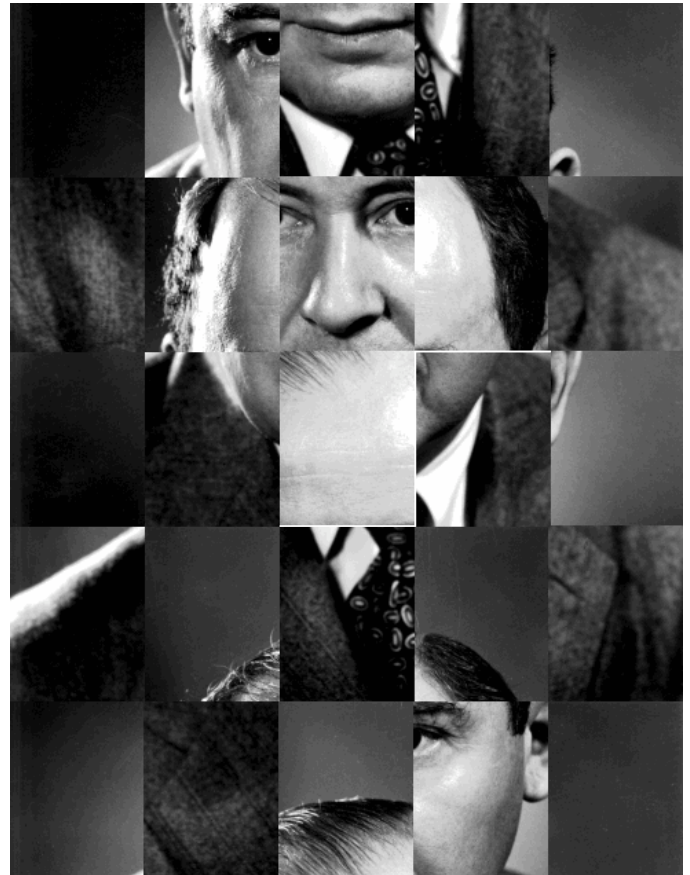
# The Oliver Club

[www.math.cornell.edu/~oliver/](http://www.math.cornell.edu/~oliver/)

**Jesse Peterson**, Vanderbilt University

## ***Character Rigidity in Higher-Rank Groups***

*A character on a group is a class function of positive type. For finite groups, the classification of characters is closely related to the representation theory of the group and plays a key role in the classification of finite simple groups. Based on the rigidity results of Mostow, Margulis, and Zimmer, it was conjectured by Connes that for lattices in higher rank Lie groups the space of characters should be completely determined by their finite-dimensional representations. In this talk, I will give an introduction to this conjecture, and I will discuss its relationship to ergodic theory, invariant random subgroups, and von Neumann algebras.*



**Thursday, January 23, 2014**  
**at 4:00 PM in 532 Malott Hall**

Refreshments will be served at 3:30 PM in the Mathematics Department lounge (532 Malott Hall).