Ivan Smith (Cambridge)

Title: *The symplectic arc algebra*

Abstract: The symplectic arc algebra is a certain Floer cohomology algebra which arises in the study of Slodowy slices in Lie theory, from the geometry of Hilbert schemes of points on Milnor fibres of surface singularities, and in the construction of certain invariants of links in the 3-sphere. We will explain a formality result, which shows that the higher order A-infinity structure on this algebra is trivial. This is one step in an ongoing program aimed at giving a symplectic interpretation of Khovanov homology. The talk describes joint work with Mohammed Abouzaid.