MATH ENCOUNTERS

CATEGORY *theory:*
the MAD LIBS *of* MATHEMATICS

Speaker: Tai-Danae Bradley

Wednesday, August 13, 2025

Special introduction by **Gary Gordon**, Professor Emeritus, Lafayette College.

Afternoon Presentation
4:00 pm ET (New York)

Evening Presentation
7:00 pm ET (New York)

National Museum of Mathematics
225 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY

Mad Libs is a fun word game played by filling in the blanks of a story with different words — nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, and more. Different word choices give different stories, but each has the same structure underneath. In some ways, category theory — a modern branch of mathematics — is like a *Mad Libs* template for mathematics. It provides a framework that captures structure shared by many ideas across the mathematical world and even beyond. In this talk, mathematician Tai-Danae Bradley offers a friendly introduction to category theory, shows how it connects different parts of math, and explains why it's popping up in the world of large language models like ChatGPT. Along the way, we'll explore how thinking abstractly can help us see both math and language in a whole new light.

Register now at **mathencounters.org** to reserve your place!

MATH ENCOUNTERS
A public presentation series celebrating the spectacular world of mathematics

SIMONS FOUNDATION

THE SIMONS FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL, LTD.

MoMATH
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF MATHEMATICS
momath.org