

# *Welcome to the antidisciplinarathon at Topos!*

*August 13, 2017*

WILL YOU CREATE a paper abstract, a drawing, a proof, installation art, performance art, a dance, an idea for a study, a real experiment, a tiny tool, a zine, an idea for an open problem to tackle, a proposed solution to a problem, a demo of a prototype, a pyramid scheme, a game, a magic trick, a skit, a machine, a conversation, a clear new intuition, a new explanation of an existing phenomenon, or something we couldn't have imagined beforehand?

You might stumble on a line of inquiry that you—or someone in the audience—could work on for years!

WE EXPLICITLY ENCOURAGE **depth over breadth**. We also encourage **bold, experimental, illegible, or exploratory work** over work that you don't feel strongly about.

## *Event details*

- Feel free to work from anywhere: the living room, kitchen, roof, fire escape, library upstairs, nearby Glen Canyon...
- Please focus on having something to present at the end, so we can pool our knowledge.
- Partner didn't show up, or you weren't paired? Talk to a host, or feel free to re-pair or join a group!
- Questions? Find a host: Katherine (732 599 4732), Laura, Sasha, Sebastien, Nate, or Vrushank.

## *Prompts*

- What questions in your field have been bothering you lately?
- What small problems were you struggling with yesterday?
- What are you really good at? What immediately comes to mind when naively combining your skills? Try iterating on that.
- What are some of your favorite papers or pieces of art? Why?
- What is your "list of ten problems" (à la Hamming) that you carry around in your head, that you really wish you could solve?
- What really scares or surprises you about your partner's field?
- What's one implicit methodology or mindset in your field that you could use or challenge? (thanks RMO for the suggestion)
- What insights form the core of your discipline? (thanks MN for the suggestion)
- "Make the familiar strange; make the strange familiar."

## Planned schedule:

4:00-4:20 Introduction / Socializing

4:20-5:50 Pairing

5:50-7:00 Presentations

7:00-*whenever* Dinner

Stuck, need a break, or need expertise?  
Try this:

- Try to keep three parallel and distinct threads of ideas going. Try swapping between them, and see how you might combine them at the end.
- Write what you need help with on the whiteboard or just yell or ask a host (e.g. "anyone know about EEGs?!")
- Looking for someone who knows something specific? Talk to a host!
- Feel free to facilitate others' discussions, eavesdrop, and drift around.