Modeling a Round-Robin Quilt Exchange

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Dr. Kathryn Haymaker
Assistant Professor of Mathematics, Villanova University

In a certain type of quilting circle, the goal is for each person to start their own unique quilt, and then for everyone to pass the quilts along until each person has contributed to every quilt. Passing the quilts in a literal circle would work, but it is limited, in the sense that person A’s work is always followed by person B (assuming A always passes to B). Can we create a scheme so that each person passes the quilt they are working on to a new person every time? This question can be modeled mathematically as a search for special types of combinatorial objects called row complete Latin squares. In this talk we will explore the known and unknown aspects of this colorful problem! (Based on joint work with Beth Malmskog.)