

Professor Melissa Mills

Case Study 1, 2:30–3:15

This is your Brain on Math

Did you know that many different kinds of animals and even human babies have some understanding of number? In fact, many animals naturally perform feats that humans could only do by using advanced mathematics. Humans, however, are the only species known to "do math" in the traditional sense; the conscious performance of computations with the aid of paper and pencil or calculator. In this talk, I will give a sampling of interesting results from cognitive science that shed light on what is going on in our brains when we do math.