

Jeremy Sepinsky – Colloquium 9/12/2019

Alternative Careers in Astrophysics: Wargaming for the US
Department of Defense

Abstract:

Wargaming is neither about fun nor play (though if done right includes both). Wargaming is a decision making tool used by governments, militaries, and business executives as a way to help understand the set of possible futures. Strategists of all sorts use wargames (sometime called “serious games” in venues where the word “war” is too sensitive) to identify opportunities and obstacles, strategies and choices, and black swans and pink flamingoes. As a PhD Astrophysicist and former university professor, I have leveraged my analytic and data processing skills to help focus the data collected during wargames to help leaders make more analytically informed decisions. Like any good experiment, wargames need to be designed with data and analysis in mind. In this presentation, I’ll discuss how my background in astrophysics helps me design analytically sound wargames using a method I call “Programming with People”.