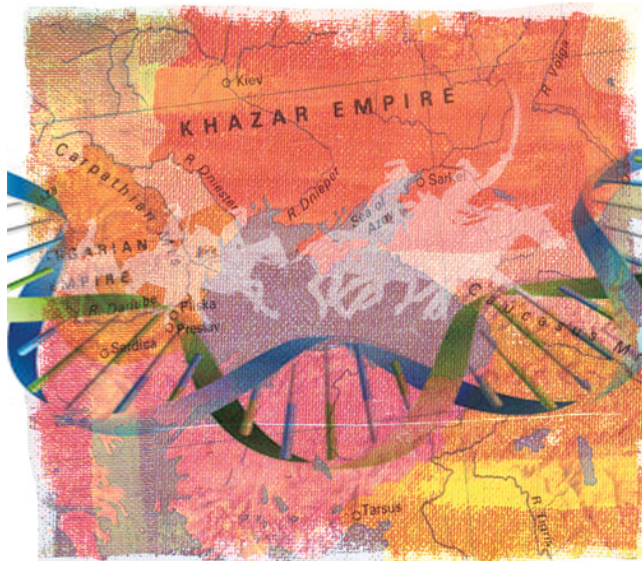


Graduate Mathematics Seminar

Mathematical Approaches To Ancient History

Dr. Tatiana Tatarinova

University of La Verne



Abstract: For millennia the history of Eurasia was shaped by war and trade with medieval steppe nomads. Little is known about these nomads. Written records are sparse and incomplete. The complexity and heterogeneity of nomadic ethnicities was often a source of confusion for their contemporaries from other civilizations. The Khazar Khaganate was a particularly important and stable polity that controlled the trade artery around the Black and Caspian seas in the Early Middle Ages. The identity of the Khazar rulers has been debated for centuries, and one hotly debated hypothesis posits that they are progenitors of the present-day Ashkenazi Jews. Recent genetic studies ultimately came to opposing conclusions about the relationship between the Khazars and the Ashkenazim, based on which present-day population was chosen as the Khazar's proxy. Here, for the first time, we use whole genome NGS data from reliably identified archaeological sites associated with the Khazars to put this controversy to rest. We find that the Khazar elite had genomic and matrilineal affinities to East Siberian and Caucasian tribes, but not to present-days Jewish populations.

When: Monday, September 23, 2019, 6:00 – 7:00 pm

Where: CSUCI, Sierra Hall 2411

One University Drive, Camarillo, California 93012-8599 Tel: (805) 437-8967 Fax: (805) 437-8864 www.csuci.edu