

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier University



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March 22, 1991
013-1991

Use of mathematics to analyse war subject of public lecture

Usually politics, economics, or religion is enlisted to explain war. But another discipline can be too.

The use of mathematics to analyse strategic decisions to make war will be the subject of a public lecture at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo on Tuesday, April 9.

Marc Kilgour, a professor of mathematics at Laurier and the university's full-time research professor for 1990-91, will discuss game theory models of decisions to make war. Game theory is a branch of applied mathematics that seeks to analyse strategic conflicts often involving large numbers of decision makers.

During a year-long leave awarded so he could pursue research full time, Kilgour has been examining the use of game theory to analyse decisions leading to war, and enforcement and inspection related to such things as arms control and environmental regulations; and the use of computer systems to analyse strategic behavior in political negotiations.

Commenting on Kilgour's lecture will be Barry Kay, a professor of political science; Doug McKenzie-Mohr, a professor of psychology; and Peter Sinclair, a professor of economics.

The lecture, sponsored by Laurier's Interdisciplinary Research Committee, will begin at 7 p.m. in Rm. P1025/27 of the Frank Peters Building. A reception will follow.