Rebecca Milley

I am an Assistant Professor in mathematics at the Grenfell Campus, Memorial University of Newfoundland

My primary job duties are to teach undergraduate math courses and pursue research in mathematics. My research area is Combinatorial Game Theory. This is the mathematical study of pure strategy games, like chess, checkers, and tic-tac-toe, that have perfect information and no elements of chance. Under *normal* play, the winner is the player who takes the last legal move. I specialize in *misère* play, where you "win by losing": the winner is the player who runs out of moves first. These games are surprisingly much harder to analyze than normal-play.

I grew up in a remote and tiny (1km x 3km, 600-person) island town off the southwest coast of Newfoundland. I completed my first degree at the small Grenfell Campus of Memorial University, in Corner Brook, NL. I actually majored in psychology, with a minor in math. Afterwards I did two more years of undergrad to finish a major in math. I did my master's in math at Memorial University's main campus in St. John's, and my PhD in math at Dalhousie University in Halifax, NS. Immediately after completing my PhD, I got a faculty position back at Grenfell Campus.

I always loved math, but I didn't want to be a high school teacher, and that's the only thing I thought I could do with a math degree! So I only minored in math at first. I planned to go to law school; at some point I realized what I thought I liked about law was logical arguments and reasoning, and those really belong to mathematics.

My husband and I have two small kids (almost 2 and almost 4), and they keep us pretty busy! We have a house in the woods just outside of Corner Brook, and we love to play and walk outside. I also run and play ultimate Frisbee. I like reading novels (Jane Austen is my favourite author) and baking. I like games of all kinds, especially board games (current favourite is Castles of Burgundy).

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