

Speaker: Javad Shabani

Affiliation: New York University (NYU)

Time: 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Location: Marcus Nanotechnology 1116-1118

Title: Towards Topological Superconductivity in Epitaxial Superconductor-Semiconductor Systems

Abstract: A central goal in quantum condensed matter physics is to understand and control the order parameter characterizing the collective state of electrons in quantum heterostructures. For example, new physical behaviors can emerge that are absent in the isolated constituent materials. With regards to superconductivity this has opened new area of investigation in the search for topological superconductivity. This type of superconductivity is expected to host exotic quasi-particle excitations including Majorana bound states which hold promise for fault-tolerant quantum computing. In this talk, we first discuss the important role of epitaxial superconductor-semiconductor hybrid systems as an enabling materials platform. We present unprecedented values of transparency and induced gap that could allow us to reach into previously unexplored parameter regimes. In wide Josephson junctions exposed to magnetic field, we observe a minimum of critical current accompanied with a phase jump in the superconducting phase. We discuss this observation as a signature of a transition between trivial and topological superconductivity. These findings reveal a versatile two-dimensional platform to explore mesoscopic and topological superconductivity for quantum information science.