

INORGANIC SEMINAR

Professor Mircea Dincă



Department of Chemistry
Princeton University

From Electrically Conductive MOFs to Sustainable Batteries

The emergence of electrically conductive metal-organic frameworks (c-MOFs) has been one of the most paradoxical developments in the field in the last few years. Indeed, how can one transport charges through a material that is mostly “empty” space? In this sense, MOFs made from layers of organic ligands connected by (typically) square-planar metal ions have shown particularly good electrical conductivity. However, a precise mechanism for charge transport is still the subject of debate, with various experimental and computational reports describing these materials as metals, semiconductors, or semimetals. This lecture will describe the latest efforts from our group to understand the intrinsic properties of 2D c-MOFs, especially as related to single-crystal electrical measurement studies, and will discuss in particular the unexpectedly large influence of out-of-plane transport. The seminar will also discuss how these fundamental studies have led directly to the discovery of a sustainable, organic cathode material that is competitive with incumbent oxides in Li-ion and Na-ion rechargeable batteries.