

**Title:** Vanishing of L-functions and ranks of Selmer groups  
*by Chris Skinner*

**Abstract:** One consequence of the conjectures of Bloch and Kato about special values of L-functions - very much in the spirit of the Birch-Swinnerton-Dyer Conjecture - is a relation between orders of vanishing of L-functions and ranks of Selmer groups of associated  $p$ -adic representations. I will discuss an approach to this through  $p$ -adic families of automorphic forms. This is a report on on-going work with Eric Urban.