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*Traces and link homology*

Given an endomorphism  $T$  of a vector space  $V$ , we will describe a general procedure which uses categorical traces to produce homology theories for closures of braids  $\beta$ , viewed as links in the solid torus. For special choices of  $(V, T)$ , the homology gives an invariant of the associated link  $\mathcal{L}_\beta \subseteq S^3$ . Specific values of  $(V, T)$  recover known link homology theories (e.g. Khovanov-Rozansky homology and its annular relatives), while others produce new invariants. This is joint work with Queffelec and Sartori.