Ising gauge theory coupled to quantum matter: exotic phase transition and SPT order

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Abstract: After an introduction in the field of lattice gauge theories, I will discuss two surprising phenomena emerging from the interplay of dynamical discrete Ising gauge fields and quantum matter. First, I will talk about an exotic two-dimensional phase transition between the deconfined Dirac semimetal and the confined charge density wave. Second, I will explain how the Higgs phase, where matter condenses, exhibits symmetry-protected topological order. In the presence of an edge, this allows to distinguish sharply the confined and Higgs regimes.