TBA

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 C^* -algebras associated to etale groupoids have been studied for a long time and play an important role in the theory. About 10 years ago the speaker introduced rings associated to etale groupoids with totally disconnected unit space. These generalize both group rings and Leavitt path algebras and serve to unify ideas from operator theory and ring theory. Results in operator theory inspire purely algebraic results and conversely. In this mini-course we present some of the main ideas, examples and results in this area and highlight some active areas of research.