Symmetry of exotic smooth structures on aspherical manifolds

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We study how finite group actions on a manifold W depend on the smooth structure in the case when W is a flat or hyperbolic manifold. We explain a few results that demonstrate different phenomena. Our proofs make use of geometric and topological rigidity results, together with smoothing theory and the Atiyah-Hirzebruch spectral sequence.
(joint work with Mauricio Bustamante)