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**Brian Osserman\***, Department of Mathematics, One Shields Ave, University of California,  
Davis, CA 95616. *Special determinants in higher-rank Brill-Noether theory.*

We will give a brief survey of the role of special determinants in higher-rank Brill-Noether theory, including the original work of Bertram, Feinberg, and Mukai on smooth curves in the case of canonical determinant, generalizations to other determinants, and work (joint with Montserrat Teixidor i Bigas) on degeneration techniques in this context. (Received January 19, 2011)