Elisheva Adina Gamse\* (adina.gamse@utoronto.ca). Vanishing theorems in the cohomology ring of the moduli space of parabolic bundles.

Let  $\Sigma$  be a compact connected oriented 2-manfield of genus g, and let p be a point on  $\Sigma$ . We define a space  $S_g(t)$  consisting of certain irreducible representations of the fundamental group of  $\Sigma \setminus p$ , modulo conjugation by SU(N). This space has interpretations in algebraic geometry, gauge theory and topological quantum field theory; in particular if  $\Sigma$  has a Kähler structure then  $S_g(t)$  is the moduli space of parabolic vector bundles of rank N over  $\Sigma$ .

For N=2, Weitsman considered a tautological line bundle on  $S_g(t)$ , and proved that the (2g)th power of its first Chern class vanishes, as conjectured by Newstead. In this talk I will present his proof and then outline my extension of his work to SU(N) and to SO(2n+1). (Received September 20, 2016)