999-20-1 **Ruth M. Charney***, Brandeis University. *Artin groups, mapping class groups, and automorphism groups.*

Associated to any Coxeter diagram is an Artin group. These form a large and diverse class of groups, of which the best known are the braid groups. We discuss how the interplay between braid groups, configuration spaces and mapping class groups extends to (certain) other Artin groups and apply these ideas to computing their automorphism groups. (This is joint work with John Crisp.) (Received January 16, 2004)