The Motzkin polynomial, Putinars quadratic module representation and Connes' embedding problem

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(Joint work with Igor Klep)

What happens if the variables in the Motzkin polynomial commute less than they used to? In giving a partial answer to this question, we will show that representation theorems for positive polynomials in commuting variables can have interesting consequences like trace or operator inequalities. We will also include a link to the talks of Igor Klep and Sabine Burgdorf on Connes' embedding problem and the BMV conjecture.