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*Some non-vanishing results for Dirichlet  $L$ -functions*

There is a conjecture, going back in one form or other to Chowla, that the central values of Dirichlet  $L$ -functions are almost always non-zero. I will discuss some recent results on non-vanishing of Dirichlet  $L$ -functions at the central point (some of this work is joint with Siegfried Baluyot). I will mention some connections to conjectures of Keating-Snaith and Katz-Sarnak.