Transverse index theory and Hopf algebra symmetry

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The aim of this talk is to explain how the 'infinite continuous groups' of Lie and Cartan are resurfacing in noncommutative geometry, morphed into Hopf algebras. The cyclic cohomology of these Hopf algebras delivers the universal transverse characteristic classes in a form compatible with the encodement of the transverse geometry of foliations in terms of spectral data.