

Specht modules play an important role in the representation theory of the symmetric group  $\mathfrak{S}_n$ . Over fields of characteristic 0 they are precisely the simple  $\mathfrak{S}_n$ -modules; over fields of positive characteristic this is no longer true, and many basic questions about their structure are not answered. In this talk, I will discuss some homological properties of Specht modules over fields of characteristic  $p > 0$ , by showing where Specht modules in wild  $p$ -blocks of small defect occur in the Auslander-Reiten quiver. This is joint work with K. Erdmann.