

The Sowder Mathematics & Science Education Research Seminar Series 2021



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10 am - 11 am

Zoom link:

<https://ucsd.zoom.us/j/95459732734>

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Living Mathematx as a Form of Healing: Implications for Teaching and Learning

Abstract: As society presents new demands, new technologies, and new possibilities, we must ask ourselves whether the current version of mathematics is adequate for dealing with the ignorance we have.

In particular, in this era of climate change, Black Lives Matter, COVID, and anti-Critical Race Theory legislations, what do we need to understand about the role of mathematics? What kind of mathematics can promote healing and reattachment of humans to animals, plants, lands, waters? How does understanding the ways school mathematics serve as a form of dispossession for Indigenous peoples allow us to understand how all peoples are suffering from forms of dispossession?

In this talk, I bring into conversation ideas from ethnomathematics (including Western mathematics), postcolonial theory, aesthetics, biology, enactivism, and Indigenous knowings in order to propose a new vision for practicing mathematics, something I refer to as Living Mathematx. I do so in order to promote interaction between different knowledges, different ways of knowing, and different knowers.

I build upon the work of sustainability in mathematics education and suggest we need to think not only about more ethical ways of applying mathematics in teaching and learning but question the very nature of mathematics, who does it, and how we are affected by that practice.