

DG6 RESEARCH ON GENDER AND MATHEMATICS FROM MULTIPLE PERSPECTIVES

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DESCRIPTION OF AIMS

Various research studies on gender and education have explored different conceptual frameworks and methodologies for analyzing women's marginalization in school settings. Early research using positivist perspectives often worked within a deficit model. Later research involving post-positivist perspectives, such as feminist and poststructuralist models of epistemology, seek to increase women's lived conditions in mathematics classrooms. This discussion group seeks to initiate a dialogue that moves away from current methods and frameworks to new perspectives and new methodologies for considering gender and mathematics. We are particularly interested in developing international, and possibly alternative, perspectives that would help us understand the role of gender in both developing and developed countries.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What perspectives are used to investigate gender and mathematics in different countries?
2. How would new perspectives allow us to un/re/think gender as it pertains to the teaching and learning of mathematics?
3. What new methodologies would enable us to investigate difficult and unresolved issues concerning gender?

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

We will begin with an introduction of all participants, eliciting from them what problems remain that need to be addressed by research. We will have short presentations about emerging perspectives on the study of gender, leading to discussion of the above questions. We will form a network of participants to continue discussion via email and possibly develop joint research projects.