

# THE SEAWAY CURRENT

Newsletter of the Seaway Section of the Mathematical Association of America



## MAA SEAWAY SECTION STATEMENT ON BLACK LIVES MATTER

(Adapted from the [Michigan MAA Statement on Black Lives](#))

The Seaway Section of the MAA stands in solidarity with #BlackLivesMatter and with those protesting racial injustice. Racial injustice is not limited to policing. Systemic racism permeates all of our society, and mathematics teaching and research are not immune. We stand united in calling for the systems of racism and oppression to be dismantled. One year is too long, and four centuries is horrifying.

If you are wondering what you can do within your sphere of influence to fight for justice, here are some suggestions:

### Make Your Classrooms Inclusive

1. Start with your own implicit biases. Read [Blind Spot](#) ([Amazon link](#)) and take [implicit bias tests](#). Commit to overcoming your implicit biases both in the classroom and out.
2. Incorporate social justice into your mathematics teaching. As a good first step, consult Gizem Karaali and Lily Khadjavi's excellent volume of easy-to-adopt modules - [Mathematics for Social Justice: Resources for the College Classroom](#) ([Amazon link](#)). A second volume is due out by the end of this year or early next year.
3. Read the literature about the connections between pedagogy and equity. For example, you could read the literature on culturally responsive pedagogy. Rubel and Chu's 2012 article "[Reinscribing Urban: Teaching High School Mathematics in Low-Income, Urban Communities of Color](#)" contains a nice introduction to a framework for culturally responsive pedagogy and cites foundational work on the subject.

### Education Yourself and Others

Read, organize a reading group, or participate in a reading group. Some books to think about are:

1. Books on race and ethnicity in mathematics:
  - [Rehumanizing Mathematics for Black, Indigenous, and Latinx Students](#) ([Amazon link](#))
  - [Interrogating Whiteness and Relinquishing Power: White Faculty's Commitment to Racial Consciousness in STEM Classrooms](#) ([Amazon link](#))
2. General books on teaching equitably:
  - [Becoming a Student-Ready College: A New Culture of Leadership for Student Success](#) ([Amazon link](#))
3. General books on race:
  - [White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism](#) ([Amazon link](#))
  - [How to Be an Anti-Racist](#) ([Amazon link](#))

## Join and Donate to Organizations

There are several organizations dedicated to racial justice and equity within the mathematics community. Join them, donate to them, and convince your administrators to purchase institutional memberships.

Some of these organizations are:

1. [National Association of Mathematics](#)
2. [Association for Women in Mathematics](#)
3. [TODOs: Mathematics for All](#)
4. [Society for the Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science \(SACNAS\)](#)
5. [American Indian Science and Engineering Society](#)
6. [Spectra: The Association for LGBT Mathematicians](#)
7. [Math Alliance](#)

In addition, there are organizations dedicated to using data analysis to fight for racial justice. One such organization is [Data 4 Black Lives](#), to which you can join and donate.

Finally, you can join or donate to math-adjacent professional societies dedicated to justice.

---

Many of our suggestions are not easy, but **doing the right thing is often difficult**. Reach out to your colleagues, including those in the section and in the MAA.

As a community, we can make the future better than the past.

### THE SEAWAY CURRENT

The Seaway Current is published at least twice per year by the [Seaway Section](#) of the [Mathematical Association of America](#) (MAA) for the benefit of its members. Its pages are open to all members of the MAA and, by invitation to others, for the exchange of information and opinion. Contributed announcements, articles, and editorials are welcome and should be sent to the editor.

Material may be submitted to the editor by e-mail. Opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the editor or of individual contributors and do not necessarily represent the views of the MAA or of the Seaway Section.

---

#### Editor

Elizabeth Wilcox, Associate Professor

Departments of Mathematics and Computer Science, Oswego State University of New York

email [elizabeth.wilcox@oswego.edu](mailto:elizabeth.wilcox@oswego.edu); tel. 315-312-6586 & 315-596-2425

MAA SEAWAY SECTION SUMMER SERIES

## Scaling Up Inquiry-Based Learning for In-Person and Virtual Large-Sized Classrooms

a workshop presented by Shay Fuchs (Univ. of Toronto-Mississauga)

Tues. July 28, 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm (with a break) via Zoom

Implementing student-centered pedagogies in an undergraduate mathematics course can be challenging, and requires effort and training. Doing the same in a mid to large-sized class can be even harder, as new pedagogical and logistical challenges arise. What can we do to achieve a high level of engagement and meaningful discussions in a larger class? What are the new challenges we face and what strategies and tools can we use to address them? And, given our new reality - how can we achieve a high level of engagement in an online environment?

In this workshop, we will identify the main obstacles to implementing successfully active learning techniques in mid (40-50 students) to large-sized (100+ students) classes, and explore various strategies to address them. We will also look at a few case studies and some relevant literature on the subject.

RSVP at <https://bit.ly/3iBduzY> to participate



FOR ?S OR MORE INFO, CONTACT: [ELIZABETH WILCOX](#) (SUNY OSWEGO).

MAA SEAWAY SECTION SUMMER SERIES

## How Has COVID-19 Changed our Academic Life?

A Conversation on Faculty Performance and Evaluation

Join faculty and department leaders from across the section for a 2-part conversation facilitated by colleagues Mihail Barbosu (RIT), Maureen Cox (St. Bonaventure University), Brad Emmons (Utica College), and Rebecca Smith (SUNY Brockport).

Mon. August 17 @ 1:00 pm – 2:30/3 pm via Zoom

(including a short break between topics)

RSVP at <https://qrqo.page.link/Teiwf> to participate



FOR ?S OR MORE INFO, CONTACT: [ELIZABETH WILCOX](#) (SUNY OSWEGO).