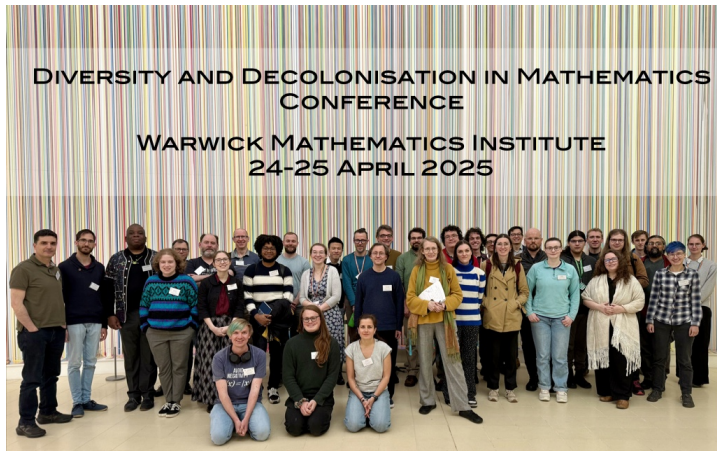


DECOLONISATION IN MATHEMATICS

INERME 2025

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10 September 2025



Organisers: Helena Verrill, Siri Chongchitnan,
Ryan Acosta Babb, Elliot Vincent

Decolonising the mathematics curriculum

- teaching mathematics and its history in a non-Eurocentric framework
- diversifying the university maths curriculum.

Diversity in mathematics

- highlighting of the life and work of female and non-European mathematicians.

DIVERSITY IN HISTORY OF MATHEMATICS



Sofya Kovalevskaya
(1850–1891)



Hypatia of Alexandria
(c.360?–415 CE)

WHY AND HOW?

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- Maths wasn't entirely discovered/developed by white, male, Western people.
- Engage students who aren't white, western men.
- Address attainment/recruitment gap for BAME students and academics.

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HOW?

- Isn't maths neutral?
 - No – nothing is apolitical/neutral, abstention is a choice.
 - Especially not in economics.
- First step is to be more aware.
- Consider mentioning diverse influences:
 - Indian, Chinese, Middle-Eastern contributions to development of mathematics
 - “Chinese Remainder Theorem” (Sun Tzu, 3rd–5th century CE)
 - Isomorphism Theorems (Emmy Noether, 1882–1935)

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