

SPECIAL DISCUSSION 2022

THE HUMAN SIDE OF MATHEMATICS

PROGRAMME AND GUESTS SPEAKER INTRODUCTION




 WISAARKHU

13 JUNE 16:00-18:00 SAST

ONLINE EVENT

PRESENTED BY UMI AND WISAARKHU

 adding values to the value of maths
UBUNTU MATHEMATICS INSTITUTE

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INTRODUCTION

Monday, June 13, 16:00–16:10



JOHN VOLMINK

Professor John Volmink has served as Pro Vice-Chancellor at the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal, and acting vice-chancellor at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology and the Durban University of Technology. He has been integrally involved in education, mathematics education in particular, serving various South African ministries in every post-apartheid government, recently concluding his third term as chair of Umalusi. He serves on numerous boards and advisory bodies, and has played an important role in education transformation. Internationally he has advised countries on the need for infusing education systems with the principles of Ubuntu, seeing the formation of the Ubuntu Global Network and Ubuntu United Nations.

In his words:

“One of the philosophical underpinnings of Ubuntu is that we are not in the world simply to adapt to the world. As human beings we have a responsibility to act on the world and change that world for the better. The Ubuntu philosophy is a way of life and a perspective of the world that calls for moral action. It draws together a multiplicity of values and directs them towards the upliftment of both the individual and the community.”

His input to our discussion will be on Humanising Mathematics.

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CHRIS BREEN

Monday, June 13, 16:15–16:25

Chris Breen is an Emeritus Associate Professor at the University of Cape Town where numerous teachers have experienced his innovative teaching methods in various education courses. He has also lectured on courses at the UCT Graduate School of Business, from which he has moved to running courses for many corporations both nationally and internationally. For three years he served as President of the International Group of the Psychology of Mathematics Education. His research centres in the science of complexity, where he uses mindfulness practices to encourage deep introspection about one's living.

In words from his website:

"I believe that our immersion from birth into the machine-based complicated paradigm of systems, structures and processes has brought us to a crisis point in our lives. We spend each working day going at top speed on our hamster wheels ticking off items on our to-do list and desperately trying to reach the targets set by others. And at the end of the day we bring the worst of ourselves home to our loved ones."

His input to our discussion will be "The importance of BOTH – AND in teaching and learning mathematics".

Here is a link to his PME Seoul plenary paper 'On Humanistic Mathematics Education' ([On Humanistic Mathematics Education: PME Seoul 2007 - Chris Breen](#)).

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Monday, June 13, 16:30–16:40



SHARON LAYTON-VERWOERD

Sharon's personal and professional mission is to cultivate relationships with self, others and communities that nurture the well-being of all. She is committed to supporting educational communities to build our capacities, imagination and connectedness.

She brings a wealth of international experience in the classroom both in teaching mathematics and in developing peer mediation and restorative justice programmes. Her journey has taken her from a master's degree in Australia to a school in Northern Ireland to schools in Mitchell's Plain and Wynberg, to her current position at St George's Grammar School.

She will speak about her experiences of the effects of trauma on learning and teaching mathematics.

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Monday, June 13, 16:45-17:55



ELIZABETH MREMA

- Phd Student, Stellenbosch University (South Africa)
- Assistant Lecturer, University of Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)
- Publicity and information officer, Tanzania Women in Mathematics (TWM) association
- Co-founder Tanzania Mathqueens project.

Mathematics has been defined as a subject that is far away from human beings. This is the reason why we can hear people speaking statement like “ I do not have a dream to be an Engineer or Mathematician, why would I waste my time learning mathematics?” others say “ Mathematics is too hard, I think it was not meant for me” etc. All these shows how Mathematics is disconnected to human beings. In this talk we will see how human is displayed in different angles of Mathematics (learning Mathematics) and how could we present math to make it more humanly. I will also highlight the situation in Tanzania basing on the topic.

Monday, June 13, 17:00-18:00

OPEN DISCUSSION ON THE HUMAN SIDE OF MATHEMATICS

Come and join the discussion on the theme of the human side of mathematics and see discover where the discussion takes us.