

Gender Issues in Mathematics

In choosing which women to include in this course, there wasn't much choice until reaching more contemporary times, because, until the last 75 years or so, there were not many women who were known for making significant mathematical contributions. Even in my own lifetime, I can remember when I heard discussions about women submitting research articles using initials rather than their given name, so that editors and reviewers would not know that the author was female. It even reached the point that if an initial was used instead of a name that there was a good chance the author was female. When I first started attending research conferences in the 1990's, the majority of the attendees were men and the few women in attendance would mostly be relatively young (under 40). As time has marched on, things changed and now about half of the attendees at mathematics conferences are women.

For this module, you will read a series of articles which span about 3 decades (published in 1979, 1999, 2004) and then explore the Association for Women in Mathematics website. (There are 2 optional readings from the 1970s, if you have access to them.) As you are reading be thinking about how things changed over the course of time when these articles were written until today (for today, use your own experience and what you see on the AWM website). Also, be noticing how things have changed since the time of the earlier female mathematicians that we have studied.

Required Reading – read in chronological order, oldest to most recent

- JOURNAL ARTICLE: **Sex Differences in Mathematics: How Not to Deal with Them**, Edith H. Luchins, *The American Mathematical Monthly*, Vol. 86, No. 3 (Mar., 1979), pp. 161-168. DOI: 10.2307/2321515

Available via JSTOR: www.jstor.org/stable/2321515 or <http://library.pittstate.edu:2091/stable/2321515>
- JOURNAL ARTICLE: **AWM in the 1990s: A Recent History of the Association for Women in Mathematics**, Jean E. Taylor and Sylvia M. Wiegand, *Notices of the AMS*, Vol. 46, No. 1 (Jan., 1999), pp. 27-38. <http://www.ams.org/notices/199901/awm.pdf>
- JOURNAL ARTICLE: **Has the Women-in-Mathematics Problem Been Solved?**, Allyn Jackson, *Notices of the AMS*, Vol. 51, No. 7 (Aug., 2004), pp. 776-783. <https://www.ams.org/notices/200407/comm-women.pdf>
- Explore the Association for Women in Mathematics website at <https://awm-math.org/> . Be sure to read the “About AWM” (<https://awm-math.org/about/>) and skim through the most recent AWM newsletter (<https://awm-math.org/publications/newsletter/>).

Optional Reading

- **Math Equals: Biographies of Women Mathematicians+Related Activities**, by Teri Perl, Addison Wesley, ISBN 0-201-05709-3, p. 195-203.
- **Women in Mathematics**, by Lynn M. Osen, MIT Press, ISBN 0-262-65009-6, p. 163-170.