



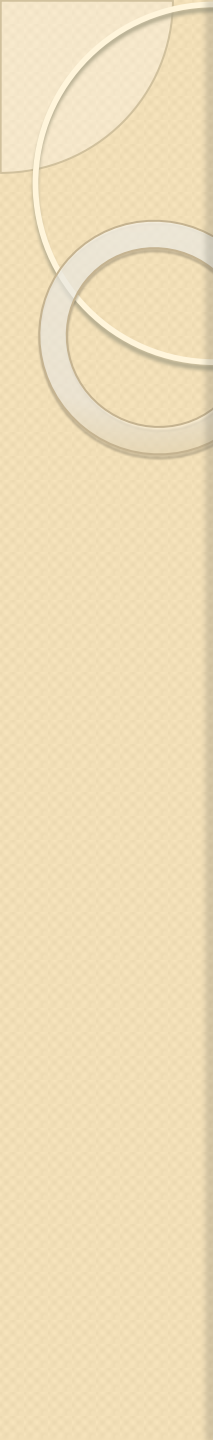
Supporting STEM Intellectuals Under Attack

Rochelle Gutiérrez

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

[@rg1gal](#)

A presentation given in the Science for the People
Conference, Ann Arbor, MI. February 3, 2018.



When our pedagogy or scholarship involves challenging the status quo, especially on behalf of historically marginalized students, some people will go to extreme measures to silence us...

(Gutiérrez, 2017, *Journal of Urban Mathematics Education*)

Mathematics operates as whiteness

- 1) When the contributions of all groups are not represented or acknowledged (e.g., when people think only of White men as mathematicians)
- 2) Mathematics = norm/standard in society = whiteness

See in particular:

Gutiérrez, R. (2013). Why (urban) mathematics teachers need political knowledge. *Journal of Urban Mathematics Education*, 6(2), 7-19.

Gutiérrez, R. (2015). Nesting in Nepantla: The importance of maintaining tensions in our work. In Joseph, N. M., Haynes, C. & Cobb, F. (eds.), *Interrogating Whiteness and relinquishing power: White faculty's commitment to racial consciousness in STEM*



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White privilege bolstered by teaching math, university professor says

“Teaching Math is Racist”

And the backlash ensued

You are why whites will ALWAYS RULE and ALWAYS ACHIEVE. They don't make excuses. They don't get points for skin color. They don't get positions from filling race quotas as you did. Achievement is required for whites. They will always surpass and win until a merit-based system is in place and until racist wanna-be victims like you stop making excuses for not keeping up and working hard.

I suggest you go and shoot yourself for trying to kill the dreams of truly curious and aspirational young Latinos and blacks. You set limitations for them. Someone as evil, stupid and racist as you should be barred from teaching. You hate yourself and want blacks and Latinos to hate themselves and limit their horizons too. And you want to blame whites for your inability to learn and achieve.

I am going to spearhead a media campaign to have you fired for making the racist implication that Latinos and blacks cannot keep up. What a disgrace you are as a

To: rgutirrz@uiuc.edu;

Go fuck yourself loser. Racist pig. Since you cant learn Hellenic Math go lower your standards.

But, this attack was not really on me

- Attack on all of us who unapologetically stand up for the rights of people who are Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Muslim, undocumented, who identify as LGBTQIA, or who are labeled with “disabilities.”
- “Slow violence” happening to tons of teachers/scholars on the ground (in schools, in classrooms, in manuscript reviews, in tenure files)—“Where’s the math?” “Don’t bring your politics”
- Others
 - Dr. Piper Harron (White supremacy, patriarchy & mathematics)
 - TODOS/NCSM (Social justice statement)
 - Dr. Luis Leyva (mathematics, whiteness, & heteronormativity)
 - Job announcements at Texas State, Kennesaw State (preference for candidates who addresses social justice)
 - Dr. Laurie Rubel (meritocracy and mathematics)

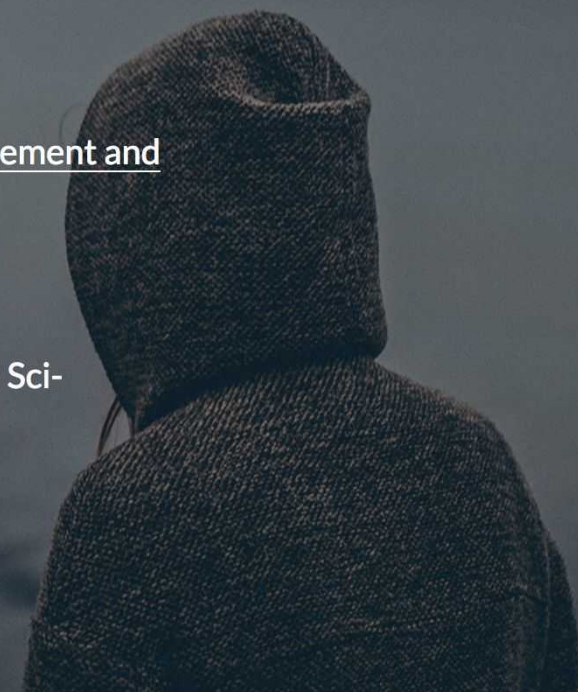
We stood together

- Professional organizations created public statements
- Individuals blogged & created hashtags
- People developed petitions and wrote to administrators
- Universities used it as a teachable moment
- New alliances were created
- People offered resources for supporting public scholars under attack
- Mathematicians invited mathematics education scholars to speak/write
- Journals decided to publish commentaries or dedicate space to special issues to continue dialogue
- A group created a useful website that pulls everything together



Equitymathed.wordpress.com

[MathEdCollective]

- Public support of Dr. Gutiérrez becomes visible when the hashtag #IStandWith-Rochelle starts trending on twitter
 - Various Mathematics Education organizations write statements in support of Dr. Gutiérrez (links are directly to the statements):
 - Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators
 - TODOS
 - Benjamin Banneker Association
 - National Council of Teachers of Mathematics
 - Research in Mathematics Education SIG (SIG-RME)
 - PME-NA
 - Mathematics Teacher Education Partnership (MTEP)
 - Research in Undergraduate Mathematics Education (RUME)'s statement and petition of support
 - Creating Balance in an Unjust World
 - Association of Women in Mathematics
 - Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS)
 - Bloggers start to write in support of Dr. Gutiérrez
 - Dr. Matthew Felton-Koestler
 - Humanizing the Mathematics Classroom
 - Jose Vilson
- 

Who Funds CampusReform?

According to Media Matters, these are 3 of CampusReform's top funders:

- The Leadership Institute
- Donors Capital Fund and DonorsTrust
- Charles Koch Foundation

Resources:

Who else in Mathematics and Mathematics Education has this happened to?

- Jo Boaler's detail of her public attack by Milgram and Bishop
- Piper Harron's blog, which sparked and also details the public attack on her right to call out sexism in mathematics

What to do if you or a colleague is attacked:

- Contact the Campus Antifascist Network
- Write letters of support to your colleagues administration: Academic Chair, Dean, and Provost
- Our paraphrased list from Grollman's "Scholars Under Attack" article

Articles to Share:

Equitymathed.wordpress.com

Articles to Share:

- An [article](#) on how to support a scholar under attack. It gives ideas for how your institution can support you, how organizations or individuals can support you, etc.
- An [article](#) about the role of Twitter on free speech
- A [story](#) about how this kind of lack of civility is growing on campuses
- A [UCLA study](#) about teaching in the age of Trump
- A [new article](#) about how respond to right-wing attacks, by a professor who was also recently attacked by CampusReform

Organizing:

- The NCTM Innov8 Conference just announced a [“pop-up” session](#) on Thursday, Nov 16 from 6-7:30PM to discuss the #IStandWithRochelle movement
- The [Joint Math Meeting](#) in San Diego, Jan 10-13, will host a [pop-up session](#)
- [Creating Balance in an Unjust World](#), Jan 12-14, will host a [pop-up session](#)
- [Latinx in the Mathematical Sciences Conference](#) on UCLA campus, March 8-10, will host a pop-up session

"They tried to bury us.
They didn't know we
were seeds."

~ Mexican Proverb.



Ongoing Efforts

- Regular planning meetings
- Continued documentation of attacks (with mirrored pages)
- Intellectual Freedom Site
- Webinars for critical intellectuals
- More pop-up sessions
- Templates for writing to administrators
- Resources to share with everyday citizens
- Other things ;-)