

Intersection Points

*Newsletter of the Research Council on
Mathematics Learning*



Several past presidents of RCML were in attendance at the 50th Anniversary Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE RCML PRESIDENT

By Sarah Pratt

Greetings to my RCML colleagues. In preparing my first President's Message, I have contemplated so many things I wish to say. As you read this, I hope my words convey the spirit behind my words, which is that I genuinely care about each and every one of you and am so honored to be serving RCML as President for the next two years.

First, in reflecting on the 50th Annual Conference held in Las Vegas in March, I cannot help but smile. What a wonderful celebration we had! I enjoyed talking with those I know as well as meeting new members and attendees. I loved listening to the message given by Jon Engelhardt and participating in the fun activities offered by Bill Speer to remind us about the history of RCML. I also appreciated the thoughtful ways Jamaal Young invited us to join in celebrating these past 50 years. The Wilson Lecture given by Andre Thomas did not disappoint, as learning about gamifying mathematics inspired me to consider ways in which I could create my own mathematical fun.

Next, as summarized in the conference theme, I consider how we can refract into the future. In what ways might RCML embrace as well as challenge what we have done in the past, and how can we support each other as we endeavor to engage in mathematics education research and learning? One topic that keeps resurfacing for me is how to be equity-minded.

A MESSAGE FROM THE RCML PRESIDENT (CONT.)

By Sara Pratt

A colleague recently shared with me a tool (which can be found [here](#)) to critically analyze how I use language in my instruction and research so they are asset-based. Though I strive to invite all to the conversation and desire to support all humans, I recognize the defaults in my thoughts and words may not always communicate this sentiment.

Thus, I appreciate the opportunity offered by the tool which “poses critical questions that help surface and confront privilege, bias, exclusion, and/or misrepresentation and promote the use of equity-minded language” (Holiday & Gable, 2022, p. 3). My review of the questions as well as engagement in the activities offered exposes in what ways I could do better. Maya Angelou said, “Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better.” This prompted me to ask myself how I could do better, to reflect on what I have done in order to do better in the future. I invite each of you to do the same. As we celebrate the first 50 years of RCML, how might we also reflect into the next 50 years? On what might you choose?

In my role as a faculty member, I advise doctoral students conducting research and lead a course on applying adult learning principles. In reflecting on my engagement with students, I recognize I should intentionally take time to get to know them as well as facilitate discourse which invites difference. For example, I adapted the QuickDraw activity (Wheatly, 2007; see also Richardson & Stein, 2008) to use with students whose research may not be in mathematics education. I call this activity “Differences that Make a Difference” based on the work of Bateson (1969/2000) who said that “a difference which makes a difference is an idea” (p. 272). During the activity, I share a [picture](#) on the screen and facilitate the conversation by following these steps:

- Show the image and ask, “What do you see?”
- Invite someone to respond.
- Then ask, “What do others see that is different?” and invite others to respond.
- Let various ideas be offered.
- Conclude by prompting, “Now that you have heard what others said, can you see what they saw, and do you see anything differently now?”
- Engage in dialogue:
 - Connect to what was the difference that made a difference for you.
 - How does that influence or broaden your perspective?
 - How does this impact your imagining of your landscape of practice?

The process of engaging in inviting different perspectives shapes the way we talk about what we see as well as listen to what others share. This is not the same as how we typically dialogue with others. Conversation, especially polite conversation, tends to be about agreement and conformity. Yet there are ways to engage with others respectfully such that different ideas and perspectives are welcome. I call these acts of engagement complex conversations (Pratt, 2008).

A MESSAGE FROM THE RCML PRESIDENT (CONT.)

By Sara Pratt

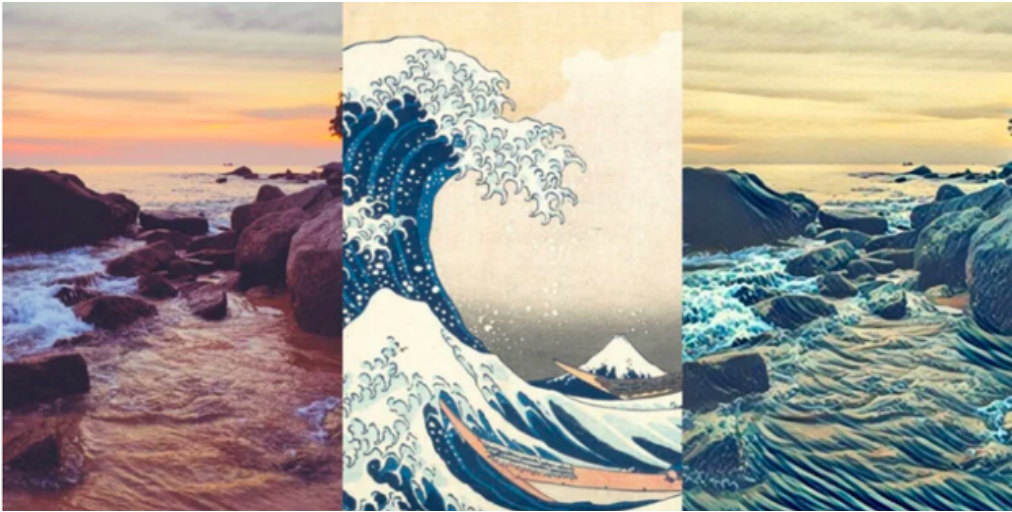


Photo credit: Zhang, 2016

I would love to know in what ways you are refracting how you engage others as well as how you conduct research from the perspective of being asset-based and equity-minded. When we gather in Columbia, South Carolina next spring, let's talk about this! We can grab a cup of coffee and chat. I look forward to some fabulous conversations.

References

- Bateson, G. (1969). Double bind. In G. Bateson (2000), *Steps to an ecology of mind* (pp. 271-278). Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press. (Original work published 1972)
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- Richardson, K., & Stein, C. (2008). Developing spatial sense and communication skills. *Mathematics Teaching in the Middle School*, 14(2), 101-107.
- Wheatley, G. (2007). QuickDraw: Developing spatial sense in mathematics. *Mathematics Learning*.
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2024 Call for Proposals



Framing the Future of the Field
Due: October 1, 2023, 11:59PM

The 51st Annual Conference of the Research Council on Mathematics Learning (RCML) will be held in Columbia, South Carolina, February 29-March 2, 2024 at the University of South Carolina Alumni Center. The purpose of the RCML conference is to share current research in mathematics education, and within this context we ask all potential presenters to submit scholarship that reflects on the past and provides directions for the future in mathematics learning. The conference planning committee encourages proposals of completed research studies and works-in-progress.

Framing the Future of the Field in mathematics education research involves exploring and envisioning the direction mathematics education research should take in the coming years. Here are some recommendations to connect this year's theme to your work:

- **Exploring Emerging Technologies in Mathematics Education:** Technological advancements are expected to have a significant impact on the future of mathematics education. Researchers can investigate how emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, virtual reality, gamification, and adaptive learning platforms can be integrated into the classroom to enhance mathematical learning outcomes.
- **Addressing Equity and Inclusion in Mathematics Education:** Framing the Future of Mathematics Education Research should consider the goal of making math education more inclusive and equitable. Researchers can focus on studying effective strategies to close achievement gaps among various demographic groups, dismantle systemic barriers, and promote access to high-quality math education for all students.
- **Developing Innovative Teaching Approaches:** Innovative pedagogical approaches and instructional methodologies in mathematics education are necessary for the evolution of the field. This could include exploring inquiry-based learning, project-based learning, flipped classrooms, and other student-centered methods that engage students and foster deep mathematical understanding.
- **Promoting Mathematical Thinking and Problem-Solving Skills:** The future of mathematics education research should prioritize investigating ways to cultivate critical thinking and problem-solving skills among students. Research in this area can explore the impact of different instructional practices on students' ability to reason, analyze, and apply mathematics in real-life contexts.

2024 Call for Proposals

Framing the Future of the Field (cont.)

- **Assessing Mathematics Curriculum and Standards:** As educational systems evolve, researchers can critically evaluate existing mathematics curricula and standards and propose improvements or alternative approaches. This involves considering the relevance of topics, coherence in content, and alignment with real-world needs.
- **Enhancing Teacher Professional Development and Preservice Teacher Education:** We encourage submissions related to effective professional development for mathematics teachers. Investigating the most impactful approaches to support teacher growth, knowledge, and instructional practices can lead to better-prepared educators who can foster student success.
- **Exploring Interdisciplinary Connections:** Mathematics is interconnected with various disciplines such as science, engineering, economics, and the social sciences. We encourage researchers to explore the potential of interdisciplinary approaches to teaching and learning mathematics, preparing students for future career opportunities.
- **Studying the Impact of Socio-Cultural Factors:** Understanding the influence of socio-cultural factors on students' attitudes and perceptions towards mathematics is vital for shaping the future of mathematics education. Research in this area can provide insights into creating culturally responsive and relevant math instruction.
- **Investigating Assessment and Feedback Practices:** We are soliciting research examining innovative assessment methods and feedback mechanisms that promote continuous improvement in mathematical understanding and skill development.
- **Considering Global Perspectives on Mathematics Education:** Framing the future of the field should also involve recognizing and incorporating diverse global perspectives on mathematics education. Comparative studies of different educational systems and practices worldwide can offer valuable insights and inform best practices.

We are now accepting proposals!

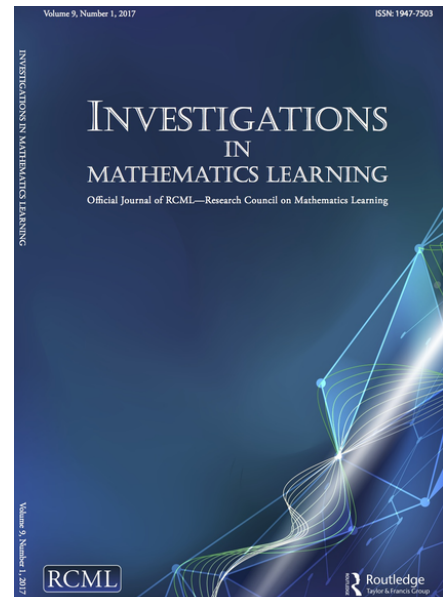
Please be prepared to address how the proposed research addresses the organization's mission, as stated here:

The Research Council on Mathematics Learning seeks to stimulate, generate, coordinate, and disseminate research efforts designed to understand and/or influence factors that affect mathematics learning.

Speaker proposals must be submitted no later than **Sunday, October 1, 2023**, to the RCML website at www.rcml-math.org

CALL FOR INVESTIGATIONS IN MATHEMATICS LEARNING EDITOR AND/OR EDITORIAL TEAM

The Research Council on Mathematics Learning (RCML) has served the mathematics education community for 50 years, facilitating communications, research and dissemination of knowledge among higher education faculty. The official journal of RCML, *Investigations in Mathematics Learning* (continuously published since 1978), is a prestigious journal among mathematics educators. RCML is soliciting applications for the position of Editor as well as Associate Editor(s) of *Investigations in Mathematics Learning*, for the term January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2027. During the period of July 1, 2024-December 31, 2024, the incoming editor and their team will receive onboarding from the current editorial team. The Executive Board of RCML plans to select the new Editorial Team during the spring of 2024. Prospective applicants for the three-year term of Editor need to provide the Search Committee with evidence of the following:



1. Strong professional commitment to the editorial role of a major international professional journal
2. Appropriate professional background knowledge and experience in mathematics education that demonstrates scholarly work in a multitude of mathematics education areas.
3. History of being punctually responsive in the role of reviewer or editor with academic journals.
4. Available logistical support to produce a quality journal punctually, including the time required for accomplishing the duties of the Editor, adequate office space, accepted procedures to update the Vice President on Publications on budgetary matters. On average, an editor can expect approximately 2-4 hours per week devoted to editorial responsibilities. On average, an associate editor can expect 1-2 hours per week devoted to editorial responsibilities
5. Sound organizational, administrative, and communication skills.
6. Personal commitment to the mission of the Research Council on Mathematics Learning.
7. Past editorial abilities and/or experience, including the capability to work cooperatively with other professionals.
8. Plan for constructing a cohesive and productive editorial team including the names of two or three possible associate editors to be appointed for the same term.
9. Vitas that highlight scholarly work and editorial experiences for both applicant and the recommended associate editors.

The Research Council on Mathematics Learning typically awards the editorship as a grant/contract to the host institution. RCML characteristically provides the *Investigations in Mathematics Learning* editor with at least \$1,000 annual support as well as pays the expenses of the Editor to attend the Annual Conference of RCML. In addition, RCML will provide a \$1,000 honorarium to an assistant to the editor each fiscal year (RCML FY is July 1-June 30). Submitted proposals should describe specifically the Editorial Office operations, the composition of the internal Editorial Board specific to mathematics education, and the planned resource utilization procedures. Submit the proposal addressing each of the nine points listed above, with appropriate documentation, to Dr. Colleen M. Eddy, Vice-President for Publications, colleen.eddy@unt.edu, by March 30, 2024. Finalists will be interviewed via conference call in April 2024.

2023 RCML CONFERENCE

By Jamaal Young

The 50th Annual Conference of the Research Council on Mathematics Learning (RCML) was held in Las Vegas, Nevada, March 2–4, 2023 at the Alexis Park All-Suite Resort. This year's conference theme was: Reflecting on the Past, Refracting into the Future. Refracting is defined as serving or tending to refract or turning from a direct course. Our conference committee and attendees took a step forward this year and made some small yet noteworthy changes to the conference schedule and activities. This year we reflected on our past as we directed our path into the future, rather than maintaining the status quo.

The 2024 RCML conference was a tremendous success. We had 135 speakers in attendance and 74 presentations. Using the Whova application, we are able to track session popularity. Based on the personal agendas of attendees "Black Epistemologies, Black Language, and Black Children's Math Education" by Nickolaus Ortiz was the most popular session this year.

**We look forward to seeing you next year in Columbia, South Carolina for the
51st Annual Conference!
February 29 - March 2, 2024**



The purpose of the RCML conference is to share current research in mathematics education and within this context, we asked all potential presenters to submit scholarship that reflected on the past and provides directions for the future of mathematics learning. RCML prides itself on supporting faculty and advanced graduate students as they report on finished findings, share about works-in-progress, and engage in and be receptive to constructive comments on preliminary framings/findings.

INVESTIGATION IN MATHEMATICS LEARNING JOURNAL METRICS

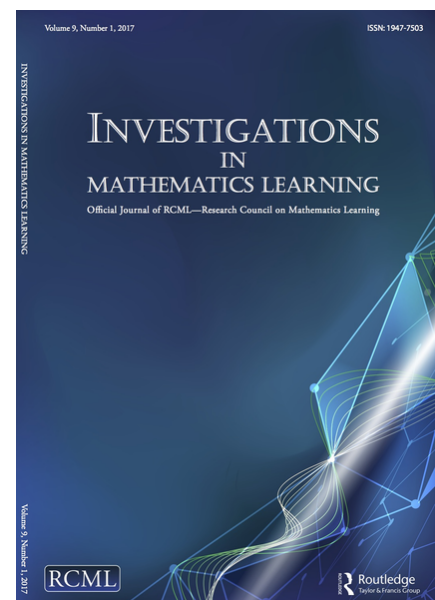
Below are the usage, citation metrics, and speed/acceptance rates for the Investigation in Mathematics Learning journal of RCML, as reported on the Taylor & Francis website.

Usage: 17K annual downloads/views

Impact Factor:

- 1.7 (2022) CiteScore (Scopus)
- 0.972 (2022) SNIP
- 0.524 (2022) SJR

**SUBMIT A
MANUSCRIPT
TODAY!**



FUTURE CONFERENCES

2023

Oct. 1-4, **Psychology of Mathematics Education (PME-NA)**, Annual Conference, Reno, NV

Oct. 19-21, **School Science and Mathematics Association (SSMA)**, Annual Convention, Colorado Springs, CO

Oct. 24 - 25, **National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM)**, Research Conference, Washington, DC

Oct. 25-28, **National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM)**, Annual Meeting, Washington, DC

2024

Feb. 8-10, **Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators (AMTE)**, Annual Conference, Orlando, FL

Feb. 29 - Mar. 2, **Research Council on Mathematics Learning (RCML)**, Annual Conference, Columbia, SC

Apr. 11-14, **American Educational Research Association (AERA)**, Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA

2024 CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

RCML publishes conference proceedings of select manuscripts that have been accepted as conference presentations. Acceptance of a proposal does not guarantee acceptance of the associated manuscript publication for the proceedings; however, all authors whose conference proposals have been accepted are invited to submit a manuscript based on their proposal. Manuscripts proposed for the conference proceedings are due by **Sunday, October 29, 2023**. Before submitting your manuscript, please review the Proceedings Submission Guidelines on the RCML website. Conference proposals and manuscripts submitted to the RCML Proceedings are peer-reviewed. The lead author of the proceedings manuscript must register for the conference. Join us in 2024 in Columbia, South Carolina. If you have questions, please contact us via email at the address below:

Jamaal Young, VP for Conferences
rcmlconference@gmail.com



NEW VP-ELECT FOR PUBLICATIONS APPOINTED!

Welcome to Dr. Babette Benken (CSU Long Beach), who has just been appointed as our new Vice President (Elect) for Publications. She is honored to bring her many years of editing and leadership experience to support RCML's publications (i.e., newsletter, proceedings, journal), the work of the Board, and the mission of the organization. Please join us in welcoming Dr. Benken into this new role!

2025 CONFERENCE LOCATION CALL

Dear Esteemed Colleagues and Math Enthusiasts,

We are thrilled to announce the official Call for Hosting the 2025 Conference of the Research Council on Mathematics Learning (RCML). As we approach this significant milestone in mathematics education, we invite passionate researchers and institutions to step forward and join us in creating an unforgettable event. The RCML conference has been at the forefront of advancing mathematics learning for over 50 years. RCML fosters interdisciplinary collaboration, and shares innovative pedagogical practices. We are excited to continue this tradition of excellence and scholarly exploration as we plan for the 2025 conference.

Why Host RCML's 25th Annual Conference?

Hosting the 2025 RCML Conference is an excellent opportunity to showcase your institution's commitment to mathematics education and research. By hosting the 2025 conference, you will:

1. **Elevate Your Institution's Profile:** Gain widespread recognition as a leader in the field of mathematics education and research.
2. **Network with Renowned Experts:** Engage with prominent scholars, educators, and researchers from around the world, fostering collaborations and knowledge exchange.
3. **Promote Innovation:** Share your institution's cutting-edge research, curriculum development, and teaching methodologies, contributing to the evolution of mathematics education.
4. **Inspire Future Generations:** Leave a lasting impact on the future of mathematics learning by connecting with educators and researchers who are shaping the next era of mathematics education.
5. **Contribute to the RCML Legacy:** Become an integral part of RCML's storied history and continue your contributions to the field.

Submission Guidelines:

Interested parties are invited to submit a short proposal detailing their capacity to host the 2025 RCML Conference. Proposals should include:

1. **Conference Venue:** Provide details about the proposed conference venue, including facilities, accommodation options, and accessibility.
2. **Organizational Experience:** Highlight your institution's experience hosting similar academic events or conferences.
3. **Local Support:** Outline the available local support, including academic institutions, sponsors, and partners.
4. **Innovation and Creativity:** Describe any unique ideas or themes you envision for the conference.

ICYMI...HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY 2023 RCML CONFERENCE



RCML Leadership

President
Sarah Pratt
Baylor University

Past President
Travis Olson
University of Nevada
at Las Vegas

**Vice President for
Conferences**
Jamaal Young
Texas A&M
University, College
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**Vice President for
Publications**
Colleen Eddy
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Texas

Secretary
Tina Mitchell
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University

Treasurer
Tyrette Carter
North Carolina A&T
University



Several past presidents of RCML were in attendance at the 50th Anniversary Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada.



Immediate Past-President, Travis Olson and new President, Sarah Pratt at the Business Meeting.



The business meeting before the business meeting! Leadership preparing for the opening of the 50th Anniversary conference.



ICYMI...HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY RCML CONFERENCE (CONT.)



The RCML Conference is truly a family affair!



Highlights from the poster session.



RCML members show their Divine 9 affiliations and unity in mathematics education at the 50th Anniversary Conference.



Excited to welcome colleagues joining us at the conference for the first time!

