
Excellence in Teaching Award
Prix d'excellence en enseignement

WESLEY BURR, Trent University

What and Who are Grading and Assessment For?

I, like most in the mathematical sciences community, was trained in a fairly traditional way. The courses I took during my degrees were largely conventional — assignments, quizzes or tests, and exams. This was the world I knew. When I became an instructor, and then a faculty member, and was given varying levels of control over pedagogy for my teaching, this was the framework I followed. But I rapidly became dissatisfied with this framework, and began questioning both the purpose and efficacy of the methods I had been exposed to in my own education. In this talk I will discuss the evolution of my thinking on grading and assessment across the last decade, and the development of an integrated framework of mastery-based grading and assessment which I have established for a full sequence of courses at Trent University, along with some musings of how successful I believe it has been, and (hopefully) some inspiration for things you might consider trying in your own teaching.