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Teaching Math for Social Insight: A Pedagogy of Mathematising

In this talk, I will share a pedagogical approach that seeks to improve learning in mathematics. This approach involves asking students to explore a social phenomenon using a mathematical lens. The idea is that by using mathematics, they gain a better understanding of the social issue, what it is, how it functions, and what its limitations are. My research, which follows from this pedagogy, examines how students describe the social practice in mathematical terms as well as how they argue and reason about their stance on the issue. I will share a political districting activity I created to demonstrate how students have used mathematics to make sense of the districting process.