
ERICA LIU, University of Waterloo

Empowerment in Math Happens Through Doing Math Together

When people hear Women in Math, their first thought is often gender equity — but WiM is not only about gender; it is fundamentally about mathematics. Our mission has always been to build a community where research, collaboration, and inclusion reinforce one another.

This philosophy shapes the initiatives we lead: the Ontario Graduate Mathematics Conference, the Directed Reading/Research Program, and the Dean's Distinguished Lecture Series. These programs invite students to propose projects, write research plans, and explore topics ranging from number theory to life contingencies. They are not simply outreach events — they are opportunities for students to think, write, present, and discover mathematics in meaningful, rigorous ways.

People sometimes ask why WiM organizes research events for such a broad audience. Yu-Ru always responds: Why not?

Gender equity in mathematics isn't about drawing boundaries — it's about opening doors, creating equitable intellectual spaces. Empowerment in mathematics doesn't just happen through discussion — it happens through doing math together.