

Collegiality Statement for Participants in Conferences and Workshops

MATH+, including its graduate program, the Berlin Mathematical School (BMS), is committed to fostering an atmosphere of respect, collegiality, and sensitivity. The study of mathematics is challenging, often emotionally as well as intellectually; even mildly inappropriate behavior can have highly detrimental effects on one's ability to focus. MATH+ strives to provide a welcoming and supportive environment for all, regardless of other characteristics that are irrelevant to the pursuit of mathematics. In most situations, simple common sense and good judgment should suffice as guidance, but we appreciate that some questions of appropriate behavior can be more complex and subtle. Instead of focusing on this fine line, we encourage everyone to strive for their actions in all contexts to be genuinely respectful and supportive, rather than merely appropriate.

MATH+ does not tolerate discriminatory or harassing behavior. If you think you have experienced or witnessed discrimination or harassment of any kind, or if you feel uncomfortable with the way you are being treated, we urge you to bring this to our attention. Any MATH+ member or office staff whom you trust is an appropriate contact person. In particular, you may contact the conference organizers in person or by e-mail (anonymously, if you wish) or the MATH+ diversity manager Tanja Fagel at fagel@math-berlin.de. When you express concerns about discrimination or harassment, we will treat these with discretion, respecting the privacy of individuals insofar as possible, but in some cases, policy or law may require us to contact the appropriate authority. After reporting an incident, it may not be obvious to the reporter that serious actions are being taken. As this is a confidential process, MATH+ will discreetly gather information and pursue the best remedy for the situation. Upon completion of an investigation, MATH+ will meet with the reporter, notify them of the findings of the investigation, and to the extent permissible, inform them of the action being taken.

The following are some guidelines for what we expect from our participants:

- Collegiality incorporates mutual respect for similarities and differences – in background, expertise, judgments, and assigned responsibilities – and establishes mutual trust between colleagues.
- Central to collegiality is welcoming diversity and actively sponsoring diverse opinions.
- Aggressively challenging or questioning the competency of a colleague or putting others down with demeaning comments creates an unwelcome and unproductive setting.
- Subtle and overt comments that promote bias and stereotypes about mathematical abilities are not conducive to a collegial atmosphere.
- If the organizers of a program component (talk, seminar, etc.) believe that a participant would disrupt either the atmosphere or the ability of others to participate, it is their duty to act to address the situation. Such action may involve excluding the participant causing the disruption. In such cases, the organizers will promptly notify the MATH+ office of their action so that the matter can be reviewed.

Inspired by MSRI:

<https://www.msri.org/web/msri/about-msri/collegiality-statement>