

## Developing Math Joy and Identity Through Literature

### An Early Math Early Literacy Webinar

December 14, 2022 | 3-4:30 pm ET/12-1:30 pm PT

#### Panelist Bios

##### WELCOME & FRAMING COMMENTS



**Jessica Lauer Tilli**  
**Math Specialist**  
**Philadelphia School District**  
**@JessicaTilli1**

Jessica Lauer Tilli has been an educator for more than 14 years and is currently serving as a Math Curriculum Specialist for the Philadelphia School District. In her current position, she writes curriculum, provides professional learning for teachers and leaders, and is leading the charge to prioritize early mathematics in her district. Jessica believes deeply that every child, regardless of zip code, deserves the opportunity to develop a strong foundation in mathematics. She is a fierce advocate for creating access for students in Philadelphia and most recently led a team of educators to develop a Comprehensive Guide for Early Mathematics that will be implemented in the upcoming school year. In 2022, she was recognized by the U.S. government with the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST). She is currently a doctoral student at Temple University studying Educational Leadership.

##### MODERATOR



**Kirsten Bohl**  
**Mathical Book Prize Coordinator**  
**Simons Laufer Mathematical Sciences Institute (SLMath)**

Kirsten Bohl coordinates a children's book list, [Mathical](#), inspiring kids from preschool, elementary, middle, and high school to see themselves as joyful and energized readers and thinkers in relation to mathematics in their own lives and in the everyday world.

The prize is organized by the Simons Laufer Mathematical Sciences Institute (SLMath). SLMath desires to offer a continuous pathway for very young children through adults from historically excluded groups to join a wider mathematics community from a place of joy, authenticity, and belonging.

## PRESENTERS



**Kristopher Childs, Ph.D.**  
**Chief Academic, Equity, and Social Justice Officer,**  
**Open Up Resources; and Mathical Selection Committee member**  
**@openupresources**

Kristopher J. Childs is the Chief Academics, Equity & Social Justice Officer at Open Up Resources, whose mission is to increase equity in education by making excellent, top-rated curricula openly available to districts.

Past roles include serving as a national mathematics content specialist with a textbook publisher, an assistant professor of STEM education at Texas Tech University, and a public school mathematics teacher in urban school settings at the secondary level.

He holds a Bachelor of Science, Computer Engineering from Florida A&M University, a Master of Science, Mathematics Education from Nova Southeastern University and Doctor of Philosophy in Mathematics Education from University of Central Florida. He is co-author of *Making Sense of Mathematics for Teaching Girls in Grades K – 5* and author of the article "Good Mathematics Teaching is NOT Telling, it is Facilitating."



**Ana Crespo**  
**author of LIA AND LUÍS: WHO HAS MORE? and other children's tales that**  
**bring alive a sense of place, from Brazil where she spent her childhood, to**  
**the Rocky Mountains where she spends her adulthood**  
**@AnaCrespoBooks | @charlesbridge | Instagram: @charlesbridgepublishing**

Ana Crespo was born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. In 2000, after studying journalism, she moved to the United States to pursue a master's degree in education. Ana is the author of *Hello, Tree*, *The Sock Thief: A Soccer Story*, a winner of the *International Latino Book Award*, *Lia & Luís: Who Has More?*, a winner of the *Mathical Book Prize*, and the upcoming *Lia & Luís: Puzzled!* Visit Ana at [anacrespobooks.com](http://anacrespobooks.com).



**Christopher Danielson, Ph.D.**  
**author of WHICH ONE DOESN'T BELONG? A SHAPES BOOK former middle**  
**school and college math teacher, and curriculum developer at Desmos**  
**@Trianglemancsd | @stenhousepub**

Christopher Danielson works at [Desmos](https://www.desmos.com), where he works with a team developing creative and social online math lessons. His personal website is [talkingmathwithyourkids.com](http://talkingmathwithyourkids.com). He started teaching in 1994 in the Saint Paul Public Schools. He earned his Ph.D. in Mathematics Education from Michigan State University in 2005, and taught at the college level for 10 years after that.

He is the author of *Which One Doesn't Belong?*, *How Many?*, and *Common Core Math For Parents For Dummies*. He founded [Math On-A-Stick](https://www.mathonastick.com), a large-scale family math playspace at the Minnesota State Fair, and he works on [Public Math](https://www.publicmath.org), a non-profit that supports informal math experiences for families in public spaces.



**Rakhee Dodia**  
**Coach and Professional Development Facilitator**  
**Early Math Collaborative of Erikson Institute**  
**@eriksonmath | Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/earlymath/>**

Rakhee Dodia graduated from Erikson Institute with an M.S. in Early Childhood Education, leading to licensure and specialization in ESL endorsement. She has 10 years of experience as a K-3 classroom teacher starting in New York Public Schools and then Chicago Public Schools. Currently, she is facilitating professional development about precursor early math concepts for 0-3 early childcare providers as well as coaching Kindergarten teachers throughout Illinois.



**Herbert Ginsburg, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus of Psychology and Education Department of Human Development, Teachers College Columbia University**  
**@DREMEmath**

Herbert Ginsburg is the Jacob H. Schiff Foundation Professor Emeritus of Psychology and Education in the Department of Human Development at Teachers College, Columbia University.

He has conducted basic research on the development of mathematical thinking, with particular attention to young children, disadvantaged populations, and cultural similarities and differences. He has drawn on cognitive developmental research to develop mathematics curricula (Big Math for Little Kids) and storybooks for young children, tests of mathematical thinking, and video workshops to enhance teachers' understanding of students' mathematics learning.



**Marlene Kliman**  
**Senior Scientist, TERC; and math editor of Charlesbridge Storytelling Math series**  
**@TERCtweets | @charlesbridge | Instagram @charlesbridgepublishing**

Marlene Kliman is Senior Scientist at TERC, an independent research-based non-profit organization supporting STEM learning nationwide. In her over 25 years at TERC, Marlene has led national-scale research and development projects involving mathematics learning in public libraries, after-school programs, community-based child care settings, family homes, and other informal learning environments. Her projects have been funded by public and private agencies including the National Science Foundation, the Heising-Simons Foundation, and the IBM Work/Life Fund.

At present, she is collaborating with Charlesbridge Publishing to develop fiction picture books that meld story, racial diversity, and math and are written by diverse authors. The Storytelling Math website is [charlesbridge.com/collections/storytelling-math](https://charlesbridge.com/collections/storytelling-math).



**Araceli Moreno Lomeli**  
bilingual services librarian, McHenry Public Library District (Illinois); and  
Mathical Selection Committee member  
[@BooksandCooks9](#)

Araceli Moreno Lomeli is a bilingual adult services librarian at McHenry Public Library in McHenry, Illinois. Her additional experiences include working with students aged 3-5 leading bilingual family storytimes and mentoring middle and high school students in read aloud skills as a Read to Achieve Tutor with a nonprofit, Waukegan to College.



**Carolyn Pfister**  
Education Administrator for the California State Board of Education; and  
coordinator of the California Early Math Project  
Twitter [@EarlyMathCA](#) | Instagram: [@earlymathproject](#)

Carolyn Pfister is an education administrator for the California State Board of Education and coordinator of the Early Math Project. Her interests include family and community engagement, advocacy for early math, and developing resources that promote children's mathematical development. Prior to her involvement with the Early Math Project, Carolyn taught elementary and middle school math and was the principal of a K-8 Montessori School.



**Naomi Reeley**  
Early Math Program Specialist at the Office of Fresno County Superintendent of  
Schools; and team member of the California Early Math Project  
[@EarlyMathCA](#) | Instagram: [@earlymathproject](#)

Naomi Reeley has been involved with the Early Math Project since June 2019 when she started as an intern. Naomi is now the Program Specialist for the Early Math Initiative. Naomi joined the team in hopes of developing and promoting resources for the project that would encourage family engagement in mathematics. Naomi is particularly interested in promoting ways to include math in daily routines by providing tips and suggestions about everyday activities. She finds it very important to create resources that are engaging, fun, and informational in order to build a child's confidence and comfort in math.



**Miguel Tanco**

picture book maker, author/illustrator of [COUNT ON ME](#) and many more beautiful books for young children

[@TundraBooks](#) | [Instagram: @tancomiguel](#) | [Instagram: @TundraBooks](#)

Miguel Tanco is an award-winning artist, children’s book author and illustrator. After studying illustration at the School of Visual Arts of New York, Miguel turned his passion for picture books into a career. He has published more than forty books including *My Best Friend* (Tundra 2022), *Toutes petites histoires* (Grasset, 2021), *Count on Me* (Tundra, 2019), *You and Me, Me and You* (Chronicle Books, 2017), *Les Farfelus* (Les Fourmis Rouges, 2015).

Alongside his work as an author and illustrator, Miguel teaches illustration and leads creative workshops for children and adolescents in Italy and in Spain, where he was born and raised. He lives in Milan with his wife Federica and their two sons, Pablo and Javier.