

Latinxs and Hispanics in Mathematical Sciences



Malena Español

Malena Español is Assistant Professor in the Department of Mathematics with a joint appointment in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at The University of Akron. Malena Español is originally from Argentina, where she received her B.S. in Mathematics from the University of Buenos Aires. After earning a M.S. and Ph.D. in mathematics from Tufts University, she spent three years as a postdoctoral scholar at the California Institute of Technology.

Malena's research interests are in applied and computational mathematics. Malena is interested in the development, analysis, and application of mathematical models and numerical methods for solving problems arising in science and engineering. During her doctoral years under the supervision of Misha Kilmer, she developed wavelet-based multilevel methods for signal and image restoration problems. At the California Institute of Technology, Malena was part of the Computational Mechanics Group led by Michael Ortiz. As a postdoctoral fellow, Español worked on analyzing the Quasicontinuum Method, a method which is used to simulate the mechanical behavior of polycrystalline materials. Currently, Malena is working with Dmitry Golovaty and Pat Wilber on a project related to developing atomistic-to-continuum models of carbon nanostructures with support from the National Science Foundation.

"I am a mathematician today because of the opportunities and support I have received along the way from mentors, friends, and especially my father and my husband. Many people helped me at each step of my mathematical career, and my way to give back is to offer opportunities and resources to students."

Lathisms was founded in 2016 in order to showcase the contributions of Latinx and Hispanic mathematicians during Hispanic Heritage Month, which is celebrated in the United States from September 15 and October 15 every year. During this time, we feature/reveal a prominent Latinx/Hispanic mathematician daily. See all the featured mathematical scientists at LATHISMS.ORG.

Thanks to the American Mathematical Society and the Mathematical Association of America for support of Lathisms.