

# Latinxs and Hispanics in Mathematical Sciences



## Sandra Crespo

Sandra Crespo is a professor in the Department of Teacher Education at Michigan State University. She is a former teacher of middle, secondary, and university level students of mathematics. At MSU, she teaches undergraduate and graduate level courses in mathematics education and teacher education. As a teacher and researcher, she is committed to improving students' experiences with mathematics. Her research is focused on students' resilience and creativity in the mathematics classroom and on teachers' potential to re-imagine mathematics classrooms as collaborative and equitable spaces for teaching and learning. Her perspective and commitments to improving the educational futures of students are informed by her experiences as a student, teacher, and teacher educator across three different countries (Dominican Republic, Canada, and the United States). As a teacher educator, her work entails preparing future teachers of elementary and secondary schools to actively disrupt oppressive narratives and teaching practices that create educational inequities in the mathematics classroom. She has published in diverse journals such as *The Elementary School Journal*, *Journal of Mathematics Teacher Education*, *Journal of Technology and Teacher Education*, *Theory into Practice*, and *Teaching Children Mathematics*. She has also authored several books such as *Smarter Together: Collaboration and Equity in the Elementary Math Classroom*, published by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics; and *Cases for Teacher Educators: Facilitating Conversations About Inequities in Mathematics Classrooms*, published by the Association of Mathematics Teacher Educator and Information Age Publishing. Her research has been supported by grants from the National Science Foundation, the Lucent Technologies Foundation, and the Michigan Department of Education. She has held several leadership positions within her field, such as Editor (2014-2019) of the *Mathematics Teacher Educator* journal; Associate Editor of the *Journal for Research in Mathematics Education* (2019-2023), and Program Co-Chair of the upcoming 2020 TODOS (Mathematics for All) organization biannual conference.

Sandra Crespo's scholarship has focused on mathematical problem posing and collaborative mathematics learning as means to support meaningful and empowering learning opportunities for students and teachers, especially for those who are consistently marginalized from school mathematics. Her research has informed not only her own institution's teacher education programs, but it has also impacted other institutions across the U.S. and internationally. Her scholarship has also made important contributions to research on the study of representations of mathematics teaching. Her approach to service, teaching, and mentoring is also grounded in her commitment to equity, access, and empowerment. At MSU, she has worked with the Chicano/Latino Studies program to recruit and to support Latinx students to mathematics-related careers. In her home Department of Teacher Education, she is now the Associate Chair for Graduate Studies and is working to create a more diverse community of teacher educators and of future teachers. She seeks to demystify the student application process, especially to those who are first generation to college students and who are from underrepresented groups in higher education.

*"The images and the narratives that circulate in the media, in the textbooks, and in our everyday living are important because they create false stereotypes and expectations of who can/cannot be a citizen of this country and who can/cannot do math. Hispanic Heritage Month provides an opportunity to celebrate the contributions and the accomplishments of Hispanics in the United States. It provides a much needed counterspace to the anti-immigrant and negative narratives about Hispanics and Latinxs in the United States."*

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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](https://LATHISMS.ORG).

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