

SCI 199Y: Random Walks and Mathematical Discovery

Discussion question, week 17.

Working with the same group as for the mathematics exercise, consider the following question: What can different sectors of society do to encourage more women to study mathematics?

Concentrate on the following sector, according to which group you are in:

Group A – Parents.

Group B – Elementary and High School Teachers.

Group C – University Professors.

Group D – The Ministry of Education.

Group E – Newspaper Editors.

As a group, come up with a list of recommendations. Try to explain and justify your recommendations as much as possible. Try to make reference to our previous class readings (including those from the past two weeks about women and gender, but also perhaps previous class readings).

You will then have to present your recommendations to the class. Try to make your presentation interesting and informative, and involve all group members in the presentation. (Time permitting, other class members will be allowed to ask questions and/or propose recommendations of their own.)

Of course, it is possible that not all group members will agree on all of the recommendations and justifications. If so, then you should explain this disagreement in your presentation, and present all sides of your debate.

Assignment for next week: Read “Studying students studying calculus: A look at the lives of minority mathematics students in college”, by Uri Treisman.