

Latinxs and Hispanics in the Mathematical Sciences



Silvia Jiménez Bolaños

Associate Professor of Mathematics, Colgate University

“Hispanic Heritage Month is a celebration. It is a time to learn about and recognize the influence, accomplishments, and the many contributions to this country of Hispanic Americans, in particular in mathematics. I hope this celebration helps motivate and inspire future generations of Hispanic/Latinx students to pursue careers in STEM.”

Silvia Jiménez Bolaños was born in Alajuela, Costa Rica. She earned her B.S. in Mathematics from Universidad de Costa Rica (UCR) in 2002. She worked as an instructor at UCR and as a high school teacher at the Pan-American School in Costa Rica for two years before applying to graduate school in the United States. Silvia obtained her Ph.D. in Mathematics from Louisiana State University (LSU) in 2010, as a student of Robert Lipton. At LSU, she received Certificates of Teaching Excellence as well as the David Oxley Memorial Graduate Student Teaching Award. After graduation, she moved to Massachusetts and became a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Mathematical Sciences at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. She moved to Hamilton, NY in 2013, where she joined the Department of Mathematics at Colgate University as a Visiting Assistant Professor. In 2015, her position changed to Assistant Professor, and she is currently an Associate Professor of Mathematics at Colgate University. She is married and has two children.

Silvia's current research centers on the Mathematics of Material Sciences. Her areas of research include Analysis of Partial Differential Equation, Multiscale Analysis, and Nonlinear Elasticity. At Colgate, she has been a faculty liaison and mentor for science-interested students from underrepresented groups. She has participated in panels and given talks in a number of institutions on her experience as a first generation student, as a woman, and as a Latina in STEM. She has given several talks about her experience (past and current) with the Imposter Syndrome. Silvia advises students that “Hard work is really important, of course, but creating a network/community is crucial for success and for mental health.” She encourages students, “Apply to internships, present posters and try to give talks at conferences, join/start students chapter (SIAM/AWM/SACNAS) at your institution; these are examples of ways to create opportunities for yourself, advance your career, and create community.”

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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