

Latinxs and Hispanics in the Mathematical Sciences

Welcome! ¡Bienvenidos!

Writer Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's popular TED talk is called "The danger of a single story." In it, she talks about the importance of reading and writing many stories of many people rather than putting a person—or an entire continent of people—into one box. "The single story creates stereotypes," she says, "and the problem with stereotypes is not that they are untrue but that they are incomplete."

If someone were asked to tell the story of a "typical" mathematician, they might talk about a shy, socially awkward white man who is a "genius," whatever that means. He was a fast learner in school and can perform feats of calculation almost instantaneously in his head. He thinks about nothing other than his research, often to the detriment of practical tasks required for everyday living. Some mathematicians do fit these descriptions, but many more don't. *When that story becomes the dominant narrative of who mathematicians are, people who don't fit the mold feel like there's no place for them in mathematics. One of the great privileges of working as a math writer is getting to hear the stories of so many mathematicians when I talk to them for articles or podcasts. There really is no one kind of person who becomes a mathematician.*

--from "The Dangers of a Single Story in Mathematics" by Evelyn Lamb
[<https://blogs.scientificamerican.com/roots-of-unity/the-danger-of-a-single-story-in-mathematics/>]

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