Special Issue Call for Papers: Ethics in Mathematics

Catherine Buell
Fitchburg State University

Victor Piercey
Ferris State University

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Special Issue Call for Papers:

Ethics in Mathematics

Catherine A. Buell

Department of Mathematics, Fitchburg State University, Massachusetts, USA
cbuell1@fitchburgstate.edu

Victor Piercey

Department of Mathematics, Ferris State University, Michigan, USA
VictorPiercey@ferris.edu

The Journal of Humanistic Mathematics (http://scholarship.claremont.edu/jhm/) is pleased to announce a call for papers for a special issue on Ethics in Mathematics. Please send your abstract submissions via email to the guest editors by September 1, 2021. Initial submission of complete manuscripts is due December 1, 2021. The issue is currently scheduled to appear in July 2022.

The use and misuse of data has erupted into a global ethics crisis exemplified by scandals such as Cambridge Analytica, the Russian hacking of U.S. election machinery in 2016, the NSA hacking of private individual phone and online records, and mathematicians providing problematic statistical analysis for use in the Trump lawsuits to overturn the 2020 election results.[1]

Increased computing power and the growth of modern areas of mathematical science such as predictive analytics and data science have resulted in considerable growth in the power differential between those who use mathematics and those who are subjected to the results of mathematical analysis. This raises the need for an ethical framework. This isn't limited to those mathematicians who design algorithms that are used to abuse data. As Cambridge philosopher Anna Alexandrova declared at the recent Ethics in Mathematics 1 conference in April 2018, "No research, no matter how pure, is immune from social responsibility." It is time that mathematicians recognize the importance of taking this responsibility seriously and training the next generation of mathematicians to identify and resolve ethical issues in their professional lives.

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[1]For background on these events and issues see the relevant Wikipedia articles [1, 2, 3, 4] as a starting point.

For this special issue, we invite papers about ethical perspectives concerning the role of mathematics in 21$^{\text{st}}$ century life. The special issue is intended to be a conversation regarding the profession of mathematics and the culture of mathematics as well as how we do it, how we live it, and also, how we teach it. We call for submissions concerning ethical problems connected with mathematics, case studies or examples of ethical dilemmas or unethical mathematical practices, position papers recommending action by professional governing bodies, philosophical reflections on the growth of the influence of mathematics and its ethical consequences, social and cultural barriers in the mathematics profession that inhibit the field's ethical growth, and related topics. Submissions may also address the ethical teaching of mathematics, or critical and ethical considerations of the role mathematics plays in education.

We sought to partner with the open-access *Journal of Humanistic Mathematics* due to its commitment to presenting mathematics as multi-faceted and mathematicians as whole humans. Our struggles with ethics in our profession are also multi-faceted and may come in the form of traditional research papers, but these conversations can also be aspirational or a call for action — suited for editorial submissions, personal accounts, or poetry. We welcome all these forms for consideration. If you are considering contributing and have additional questions, please email one of the guest editors.

Proposals emailed before September 1st, 2021, that include tentative titles and brief formal or informal abstracts will be considered by the guest editors. The guest editors will respond by October 1st, 2021, and the full contributions will be due December 1st, 2021. The issue is currently expected to be published in July 2022.

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Catherine A. Buell, `cbuell1@fitchburgstate.edu`

Victor Piercey, `VictorPiercey@ferris.edu`

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