How does racial identity matter in the mathematics classroom?

In this talk I will use contemporary research in mathematics learning as a racialized form of experience to take stock of where the field is in relation to the question of “How does racial identity matter in the mathematics classroom?” and examine where we are headed in research and classroom practice. One aspect of my talk is to complicate the master narrative of achievement motivation, which ascribes high achievement solely to effort, and analyze the racial dimensions of such narratives using examples from research with Latinx high school students.

Dr. Maria del Rosario Zavala is a mathematics educator and researcher living in the San Francisco Bay Area. She looks deeply at the ways teaching and learning of mathematics is experienced by students from historically marginalized communities, including whether or not schooling supports their development of productive mathematics identities and challenges stereotypes of who “should” do math. Central to her research are ideas of mathematics identity, racial identities, and multilingual identities.

The Program in Mathematics Education sponsors this event.