Journey to “Anti-deficit Narratives”

Abstract: This talk will be a combination of a meta discussion about how I developed my research program and the main contributions of some of my projects. Specifically, I will share my journey to find a research program that simultaneously engages both equity and cognitive research. I will discuss connections between my work and Funds of Knowledge, as well as other anthropology-informed work, like Ethnomathematics and studies of the mathematics of Indigenous communities. I will share how one of my current projects with Marta Civil, Project AdeLanTe, implements the principles of anti-deficit learning and teaching, while also building on principles from Funds of Knowledge and Culturally Relevant Pedagogy.

Bio: Dr. Aditya (Adi) Adiredja is an associate professor of mathematics education in the math department at the University of Arizona where he regularly teaches linear algebra and number theory. He received his undergraduate and master’s degree in math, and a Ph.D. in math education from University of California, Berkeley. His work lies in the intersection of equity and mathematical cognition. As a teacher researcher he investigates how deficit social narratives along with our perspectives on knowledge and learning impact the way that we look at mathematical sense making by students of color. He is also fascinated by the utility of intuitions from everyday experiences in learning mathematics. These interests inform and motivate his anti-deficit work with and for minoritized students in mathematics education.

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