

Latinxs and Hispanics in Mathematical Sciences



Photo courtesy of José Martínez Hinestroza

Dr. José Martínez Hinestroza

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"Hispanic Heritage Month is a time of remembrance, celebration, and a call to action as we highlight the Latinx community's roots and contributions to our society. This recognition of our rich and diverse traditions and history honors the immigration journeys of our ancestors and our own. As the achievements of our communities are showcased and our tribulations revisited, this month offers an opportunity to uplift one another and educate the broader community."

José Martínez Hinestroza, Ph.D., is an associate professor in the Department of Bicultural-Bilingual Studies and the Department of Mathematics at the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA). Born and raised in Bogotá, Colombia, José earned his bachelor's degree in industrial engineering from Universidad de los Andes and worked in actuarial analysis at an insurance company. Later, he began teaching in kindergarten and elementary school in Medellín and pursued a master's degree, followed by a doctoral degree in Curriculum, Instruction, and Teacher Education from Michigan State University.

José was previously an assistant professor in elementary mathematics education at Texas State University, where he received the Presidential Distinction Award for Excellence in Teaching (2022), Research (2023), and Service (2024) at the assistant professor level in the College of Education. He taught elementary mathematics teaching methods courses in both the general and bilingual education programs. In 2023, he received the National Science Foundation CAREER Award. He recently joined UTSA as part of the University of Texas System Regents' Research Excellence Program.

Relatedly, his research has highlighted underexplored sources of mathematical meaning in bilingual classrooms, such as silence, time, materiality, and aesthetics, and children's invented words and translanguaging. Consistent with principles of participatory research in education, José has published together with collaborating teachers in practitioner-oriented journals questioning the constructs of agency, control in socio-emotional learning, and community building. José's classroom-based scholarly work informs his research on the preparation of pre- and in-service teachers to affirm Latinx bilingual children's non-normative ways of participating. A central aspect of this effort is recognizing teachers' perceptions of mathematics, as well as mathematics teaching and learning. Accordingly, his work has illustrated ways of developing reciprocal professional relationships that validate teachers' experiences and expertise. In his teaching, José models the caring and professionalism he aspires his students to enact in their future classrooms. Engaging in rehumanizing practices that foster a stimulating and inclusive learning environment has been particularly important at the Hispanic Serving Institutions where he has taught.

His extensive service record underscores an unwavering dedication to global outreach and to rehumanizing the experiences of Latinx and Spanish-speaking children, teachers, and scholars by facilitating publication opportunities, enhancing mathematics teaching in early childhood, and strengthening connections between the University and the community. He currently serves as a co-editor for Teaching for Excellence and Equity in Mathematics and for Revista Educación Matemática. He previously served on the steering committee of the International Group for the Psychology of Mathematics Education-North America (PME-NA), chairing the scholarships sub-committee and the Spanish language strand for the annual conference.

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.

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