

NITheCS COLLOQUIUM:

# Use of poetry to foster inquiry into Mathematics

Boitumelo Moletsane (University of the Witwatersrand)

**DATE:** Monday, 15 April 2024 | 16h00 – 17h00 SAST

**VENUES:**

- P213, Honours Presentation Room @ WITS
- Neelsie Cinema @ Stellenbosch University
- Online

## ABSTRACT

Poetry is a form of writing that many Mathematicians practice, for example, G H Hardy, Bertrand Russell, Cai Tianxin, etc. It is a form of writing that is often short and seldom noetic. It is therefore appropriate for individuals with inadequate Mathematics and English (the language of instruction of Mathematics in South Africa). The majority of people in South Africa who teach and learn Mathematics do not speak English as their mother tongue and translation expends cognitive load that would have otherwise been used to learn Mathematics. We share some of the results of an experimental project, Math Poetry, that was initiated in 2023. The project aims to use poetry as an inquiry into Mathematical concepts and offers an opportunity to practice what Joel Hamkins terms "the social performance activities of Mathematics".

## BIOGRAPHY

Boitumelo Moletsane is a lecturer at the University of the Witwatersrand. Her research interest is in analysis. She has participated in research projects on semigroups methods of PDE's as well as other techniques.



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