POM SIGMAA

Philosophy of Mathematics Special Interest Group of the MAA

Officers

Chair (through 1/27, after which he becomes Past Chair for 1 year)
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Chair-elect (2/26 - 1/27, after which he becomes Chair)
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Program Coordinator (2/26-1/28)
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Secretary-Treasurer (through 2/26-1/27)
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At Large (through 1/26)
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From our Newly Elected Program Coordinator

Junalyn Navarra-Madsen , Program Coordinator-Elect

Hello my fellow POM SIGMAA members!

I'm delighted to introduce myself as the newly elected POM SIGMAA program coordinator. If we haven't met yet, I'm the sort of person who got into the philosophy of mathematics because I once asked a professor a *very simple* question—"But how do we **know** numbers exist?"—and instead of giving me an answer, he sighed, handed me a reading list, and said, "Welcome to the rest of your life." I've been happily wandering the philosophical labyrinth ever since.

My mathematical interests sit at the intersection of topology, logic, foundations, and those "wait… what?" moments where pure math starts sounding suspiciously like metaphysics. I'm equally fascinated by how students understand (or heroically **misunderstand**) abstract concepts, which has led me to dabble in philosophy-of-math outreach and a few past activities—like informal reading groups where half the time we debated Platonism, and the other half we tried to convince each other that epsilon-delta limits aren't as scary as they look.

Outside of mathematics, I enjoy the usual scholarly pastimes—long walks, overly ambitious writing projects, and the occasional attempt to bake something that does *not* violate the laws of topology (still working on that).

As your program coordinator, I'm excited to help highlight new work in the philosophy of math, organize opportunities to connect, and support upcoming events—including those at JMM and MATHFEST. My main goal is simple: make our community feel both intellectually energizing and genuinely welcoming. Expect updates, event announcements, and maybe the occasional fun fact that nobody asked for, but everyone secretly enjoys. I promise to keep things running smoothly, cheerfully, and with only the *appropriate* number of philosophical detours about whether mathematical objects really "exist."

I look forward to meeting many of you and helping make this a great year for our special interest group!

Sally Cockburn retirement

Sally Cockburn will be stepping down as our Secretary-Treasurer as she retires from Hamilton College and moves back to Canada.

Sally has been Treasurer of POM SIGMAA since 2017 and Secretary-Treasurer since 2018.

POM SIGMAA owes a debt of gratitude for her dedication and leadership.

In her place, the POM SIGMAA board has appointed **Steven Deckelman**, University of Wisconsin, Stout, deckelmans@uwstout.edu to finish Sally's remaining 1 year of her term (2026-2027)

Philosophy of Math at the Joint Math Meetings

POMSIGMAA Contributed Paper Session

Current Directions in the Philosophy of Mathematics

Tuesday, January 6, 2026

9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in WEWCC Room 143B

1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in WEWCC Room 144A

In the last 15 years, work in the philosophy of mathematics that is of interest to mathematicians has broadened, due in part to a new organization, the Association for the Philosophy of Mathematical Practice. This session will have speakers speaking on a range of topics in the philosophy of mathematics, both of the traditional variety (involving foundations) and the more recent developments.

Time	Presenter	Title
9:00 a.m. - 9:25 a.m.	A. Ackerberg-Hastings	The History of Philosophies of Mathematics Education: A State of the Discipline
9:30 a.m. - 9:55 a.m.	Deepa Srikantaiah	India: A Calculus of Ancient Pluralism and the Quest for Harmonious Integration
10:00 a.m. - 10:25 a.m.	Steven M. Deckelman	Philosophy's Holy Trinity: The Dialectic in Mathematical Philosophy
10:30 a.m. -10:55 a.m.	Daniel Sloughter	From Plato to Cormac McCarthy: Mathematics as Metaphor
11:00 a.m.	cancelled talk	
1:30 p.m.	Cory Wang	The Tornado of Mathematical Knowledge: An Emergent Theoretical Framework to Study the Structural Dimension of the Philosophy of Mathematics
2:00 p.m. - 2:25 p.m.	cancelled talk	
2:30 p.m. - 2:55 p.m.	Alexei Angelides	How to Say Things with Numbers
3:00 p.m. - 3:25 p.m.	S. Blake Allan	Naïve Mathematical Definition and Its Opposite
3:30 p.m. - 3:55 p.m.	Jason Rosenhouse	Carroll's Regress, Reconsidered

Mathfest 2026 in Boston: August 5–8, 2026

Invited Speaker: Juliet Floyd, Boston University

POM SIGMAA is pleased to offer Juliet Floyd from Boston University who will be speaking at Mathfest 2026 in Boston, MA. Prof. Floyd is a philosopher who works on Wittgenstein's philosophy of mathematics and logic, and the philosophy of Alan Turing. Her works include topics like the nature and limitations of philosophical and axiomatic methods, simplicity and modernism in mathematics and the arts, skepticism and rule-following, culture and forms of life, opacity in AI and the concepts of "rigor" and the "everyday".

POM SIGMAA business meeting

POM SIGMAA will hold its annual business meeting at Mathfest 2026 in Boston, immediately preceding the invited speaker.

Invited Paper Session: Call for Invited Speakers

POMSIGMAA will host an Invited Paper Session at Mathfest 2026 and has invited speakers. There may be room for further talks, and if you are interested in speaking in this session, please contact Steve Deckelman at deckelmans@uwstout.edu.

Other upcoming events in Philosophy of Mathematics

8th International Meeting of the Association for the Philosophy of Mathematical Practice (APMP)

The Association for the Philosophy of Mathematical Practice (APMP) will be holding its 8th international meeting at Chapman University in Orange, CA on January 12-15, 2026. Details at:

https://www.chapman.edu/scst/graduate/apmp-conference-2025.aspx

CSHPM/SCHPM Annual Meeting

The 2026 Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Mathematics/La Societé Canadienne d'Histoire et de Philosophie des Mathématiques (CSHPM/SCHPM) Annual Meeting will be held on June 4-6, 2026 at Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia in conjunction with the Canadian Philosophical Association and the Canadian Society for the History of Philosophy of Science. Submission deadline: February 1, 2026. Details at:

 https://www.cshpm.org/meeting/

GWP: Workshop Mathematical Knowledge: Philosophical and Sociological Perspectives

The German Society for Philosophy of Science (GWP) is offering a workshop on Mathematical Knowledge at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium (VUB), 11–13 February 2026

The event aims to bring together philosophers and sociologists of mathematical and scientific practices to explore the social dimensions of mathematics and to foster dialogue between these two research traditions. Details at:

https://www.wissphil.de/cfp-workshop-mathematical-knowledge-philosophical-and-sociological-perspectives/

For inquiries, please contact: [sander.ann.r.pouliart@vub.be]

Workshop: Lost in Transition: Topics forgotten in the turn to modern mathematics

Workshop to be held in Seville, Spain, March 5-6, 2026. For information, contact Pablo Caballero at pcaballero3@us.es

DIAGRAMS 2026

15th International Conference on the Theory and Application of Diagrams

The Diagrams conference offers a collective platform for researchers interested in diagrams. It promotes interdisciplinary collaboration by uniting specialists from diverse fields–such as computer science, mathematics, psychology, philosophy, history (including the histories of science and art), education research, and more-to share insights on both the theory and practical uses of diagrams.

Tallinn University of Technology, Tallinn, Estonia, August 24-28, 2026

Submission deadline: March 1, 2026

For information about the topics of interest for each track, see:

 https://diagrams-conference.org/2026/calls/

New publication

New Directions in Term Logic, edited by George Englebretsen and Johan van Benthem, is a collection of 15 original essays on a variety of issues concerning term logic (including traditional syllogistic and modern term-functor logic) and its relation to mathematical logic. Authors includee J.-Martin Castro-Manzano, Peter Simons, Wolfgang Lenzen, Amirouche Moktefi, Larry Moss, and Pei Wang.