

- **Diversity Statement (Peyam Tabrizian)**

I have been truly blessed to grow up in a multicultural background that promotes respect and tolerance. Being an American with Iranian roots, raised in Austria, who went to French schools in Vienna and in New York City and who attended UC Berkeley for 10 years, I have been acquainted with over 100 different cultures, including people from Lebanon, Senegal, and the Philippines. While I haven't faced any adversities due to my ethnic background, I acknowledge that not everyone is as fortunate, which is why I try my best to promote inclusion inside and outside of the classroom. More specifically, I have engaged in the following activities that provide access to higher education for groups traditionally underrepresented in mathematics:

After struggling with my sexual orientation for over 30 years, I have finally come out as a member of the LGBT community in 2019, and I have been involved with more LGBT-related activities in the math department at Texas A&M. For example, since 2021, I am a certified Aggie Ally, which includes staff, faculty, and students who are willing and certified to provide a safe haven, a listening ear, and support for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people. I have also attended the virtual LGBTQ+ Math Day conference in 2020 hosted by the Fields Institute in Toronto, and I am planning on doing so this year as well. I don't want people to go through the same period of shame and self-doubt as I have, which is why I'm doing my best to promote freedom of sexual orientation, by for instance displaying a pride flag in my office. In addition, I always have an ear for my students to talk about their feelings, and they feel very comfortable to open up to me, knowing that I listen to them without judgment.

I am also interested in more general diversity issues. In my time at TAMU, I was a former member of the Diversity Reading Group, where at the end of each month, a group of graduate students and affiliates meets to discuss a reading of the month. In addition, I was actively recruiting speakers for the panel Collaborating. Previously, at UC Irvine, I have co-created an informal seminar called the *Diversity Talks*, where a speaker from an underrepresented minority group shared their experiences and struggles working in academia. It was open to all graduate students and faculty, with lots of time open for questions and discussion. Its goal was to promote open discussion about diversity and inclusiveness within the math department. For instance, Ron Buckmire from Occidental College spoke in February 2020 on the *Nonempty Intersection between LGBT and Mathematics* and Susan Friedlander from USC talked about *Women in Applied Mathematics*.

Finally, I strongly believe that mathematics should not discriminate between race, gender, income, or sexual orientation. And what better way is there to promote inclusion than using media that doesn't discriminate between people? Math should be accessible to everyone, including people who cannot afford to go to college. This is why, on my YouTube channel, I post math videos for the whole world to watch. I even get some views from countries far away, like Bangladesh, Colombia, or Saudi Arabia. Moreover, given that I speak 5 languages, I sometimes post math videos in French, German, Spanish, or Farsi. In this way, I'm hoping to transcend the barriers experienced by marginalized groups, by giving everyone an opportunity to benefit equally from mathematics knowledge.