Gender data in honours mathematics – Matt Coles (colesmp@math.ubc.ca)

What did we (Costanza Piccolo, Fabian Fröhlich, Trinh Nguyen) do?

- We collected gender data (survey and focus groups) for students in honours mathematics courses together with their experience and opinions.
 - Have you experienced discouragement as a result of any of your identities? How do other students in the class perceive gender in math?
- Data was shared promptly with the department and has spurred/informed initiatives and structural decisions.

How did we do it?

- Had a well defined research question and only asked questions to answer it.
- We consulted with the equity and inclusion office.
- We shared the survey data with focus group participants.
- We were careful not make anyone identifiable.
- We are mindful of intersectionality moving forward.

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Context: Small program intended to prepare students for graduate school

Leaky pipeline: About 52-70% of women leave the program before graduation, compared to only 32% of men

Survey results: 127 men, 41 women, 3 non-binary, 2 prefer not to answer

- 20% of women&enby are dissatisfied with their experience (vs 7% of men)
- 36% of women&enby are dissatisfied with available support (vs 18% of men)
- 41% of women&enby observe **stereotypes** towards women in honours math classes
 - vs 5% of men observing stereotypes towards women
- Very similar in:
 - Perception of math, level of rigour, how intimidating the instructors are
- Women report being **excluded** by other students in the class
 - For example, having difficulty finding someone to work with
- "... I had a few reoccurring gripes with the attitudes of some of my **classmates**. I think too many thought themselves minor geniuses or above people in other disciplines. There was a lot of **gate-keeping** and **posturing**, it was gross."