



**IMA Mathematics Anxiety  
International Conference 2026**

**Programme**

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June – Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2026

Centre for Mathematical Sciences  
Wilberforce Rd, Cambridge, CB3 0WA, UK

## Day 1- 30<sup>th</sup> June 2026

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| 09:00 – 09:45 | <b>Registration with Tea &amp; Coffee</b>                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 09:45 – 10:00 | <b>Welcome, housekeeping, introduction</b> – <i>Meena Kotecha</i>                                                                                                                                                                |
|               | <b>Session Chair:</b> Theo Gilbert                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 10:00 – 11:00 | <b>Keynote 1</b><br>Cognitive Neuroscience of Mathematics Anxiety<br><i>Professor Dénes Szűcs, University of Cambridge</i>                                                                                                       |
| 11:00 – 11:30 | <b>Tea &amp; Coffee Break</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 11:30 – 12:00 | Mathematics Anxiety as a Global Challenge: Research and Innovation<br><i>Meena Kotecha</i>                                                                                                                                       |
| 12:00 – 12:30 | Statistics as Ritualised Calculation: How Cookbook Teaching Fuels Anxiety and Undermines Conceptual Understanding<br><i>Cedric Ginestet</i>                                                                                      |
| 12:30 – 13:30 | <b>Lunch</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|               | <b>Session Chair:</b> Meena Kotecha                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 13:30 – 14:30 | <b>Keynote 2</b><br>Addressing Mathematics Anxiety in Higher and Continuing Education: Insights From a 30+ Year Career and Implications of the Emerging Role of AI<br><i>Professor Neil Spencer, University of Hertfordshire</i> |
| 14:30 – 15:00 | Nurturing Resourceful, Resilient and Confident Learners: a pedagogical model for teaching mathematics at school level<br><i>Charlie Gilderdale &amp; Liz Woodham</i>                                                             |
| 15:00 – 15:30 | Review of Literature on Mathematical Anxiety in Undergraduate Students of Mathematics<br><i>Ric Crossman</i>                                                                                                                     |
| 15:30 – 16:00 | <b>Tea &amp; Coffee Break</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 16:00 – 16:30 | 'I'm not really a maths person but...' A Work-in Progress Mixed Methods Study of Maths Anxiety Among Post-16 GCSE Maths Resit Students<br><i>Christopher Lewoski</i>                                                             |
| 16:30 – 17:00 | Mathematical Resilience – a more effective way of thinking about learning?<br><i>Clare Lee</i>                                                                                                                                   |
|               | Poster Presentation Introductions                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 17:15 – 18:15 | <b>Poster Reception to include prize for best poster</b>                                                                                                                                                                         |

## Day 2- 1<sup>st</sup> July 2026

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|                      | <b>Session Chair:</b> Lindsey Compton                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>09:30 – 10:30</b> | <b>Keynote 3</b><br>Maths Anxiety Experiences, Triggers and Origins: Implications for Theory and Practice<br><i>Dr Ros McLellan, University of Cambridge</i>                         |
| <b>10:30 – 11:00</b> | The Interplay of Gender Ability Beliefs, Mathematics Anxiety, and Performance in Early Primary Education<br><i>Romee Halidu</i>                                                      |
| <b>11:00 – 11:30</b> | <b>Tea &amp; Coffee Break</b>                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>11:30 – 12:00</b> | Parental and Teacher Math Anxiety: Differential Contributions to Math Anxiety and Mathematical Competence in Primary School Children<br><i>Caterina Primi</i>                        |
| <b>12:00 – 12:30</b> | Who Are Sensitive? Individual Differences in the Development of Math Anxiety and Math Enjoyment<br><i>Sanne Van der Ven</i>                                                          |
| <b>12:30 – 13:30</b> | <b>Lunch</b>                                                                                                                                                                         |
|                      | <b>Session Chair:</b> Hugh Jones                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>13:30 – 14:30</b> | <b>Keynote 4</b><br>Mathematics Phobia: A Neurological Understanding and Evidence-Based Pathways to Rewiring the Brain<br><i>Dr Sweta Adatia, Garhash Hospital, Dubai (Via Zoom)</i> |
| <b>14:30 – 15:00</b> | Understanding Mathematics Anxiety through Life Stories: Insights for Adult Learning Environments<br><i>Maria Ryan</i>                                                                |
| <b>15:00 – 15:30</b> | Mathematics Anxiety Outside of Educational Contexts – The Development of a New Scale<br><i>Ciara Turner</i>                                                                          |
| <b>15:30 – 16:00</b> | <b>Tea &amp; Coffee Break</b>                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>16:00 – 16:30</b> | Not Only Learners: The Importance of Acknowledging Maths Anxiety in Teachers<br><i>Thomas Hunt</i>                                                                                   |

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| <b>16:30 – 17:00</b> | Mathematics Anxiety, Mathematics Teaching Anxiety and General Anxiety in Teachers, and their Links with Primary School Pupils' Mathematics Anxiety and Mathematics Performance<br><i>Kinga Morsyani</i> |
| <b>19:00</b>         | <b>Conference Dinner, Fellows Room, Murray Edwards College</b>                                                                                                                                          |

### Day 3- 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2026

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|                      | <b>Session Chair:</b> Mark Hodds                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>09:00 – 10:00</b> | <b>Keynote 5</b><br>From Evaluation Threat to Supported Agency: Reducing Mathematics Anxiety Through Supportive STEM Environments<br><i>Veronica Cavicchi, Liceo Scientifico 'Annibale Calini', Italy</i> |
| <b>10:00 – 10:30</b> | Mathematics Anxiety Shapes STEM Learning in American Sign Language<br><i>Rachel Sortino</i>                                                                                                               |
| <b>10:30 – 11:00</b> | Understanding and Supporting Students Experiencing Maths Anxiety in a UK Distance Learning University<br><i>Susan Pawley</i>                                                                              |
| <b>11:00 – 11:30</b> | <b>Tea &amp; Coffee Break</b>                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>11:30 – 12:15</b> | <b>Panel Discussion: Future Directions in Mathematics Anxiety Research &amp; Practice</b>                                                                                                                 |
| <b>12:15 – 13:15</b> | <b>Lunch &amp; Close</b>                                                                                                                                                                                  |

**Poster Session Tuesday 30th June 17:15 - 18:15**

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| Masha Apostolidu     | Predicting Mathematics Self-efficacy and Anxiety in Further Education Students: The Importance of Individual Psychological Variables |
| Laura Barrera Romero | The Pace Model of Mathematical Anxiety: A Multidimensional Framework Based on a Systematic Review                                    |
| Rachid Berd-Gómez    | Anxiety About Teaching Math in Spain. Psychometric Study of MAST15 and MTAS19 Instruments                                            |
| Tanya Evans          | Affective Profiles of Undergraduate Mathematics Students: Exam-Related Anxiety, Achievement Emotions, Self-Efficacy, and Stress      |
| Paula Fieldhouse     | Can an Intervention for Parents Reduce the Intergenerational Transmission of Maths Anxiety – A Doctoral Study                        |
| Emma B Fleming       | Beyond the Score: Defining Mathematics Confidence and the Impact of Grading                                                          |
| Joseph Gottah        | The DigiBus: A Confidence-Led, Student-Owned Diagnostic Tool for Reducing Mathematics Anxiety in Post-16 Education                   |
| Romee Halidu         | Exploring Teacher Mathematics Anxiety A Multi Method Study into Implicit Associations, Self-Reports, and Classroom Manifesta         |
| Stacy Marshall       | An Exploration into the Relationship Between Number Talks, Anxiety, and Attitudes Towards Mathematics for Primary Girls in England   |
| Jack Morewood        | Investigating Feelings about Mathematics among Architecture, Building and Planning Students in The United Kingdom                    |
| Kei Shing Ng         | Comparative Analysis of Mathematics Anxiety Among Form 5 Students in Hong Kong's Tiered Schooling System                             |
| Elham Rezasoltani    | Reducing Mathematics Anxiety through Peer-Led Team Learning in Undergraduate Physics                                                 |
| Beatriz Ruiz         | Understanding Maths Anxiety in Mexico: Emotional Skills and Early Primary Students' Performance                                      |

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|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Flavia Santos             | Profiling Emotional and Educational Factors Linked to Statistics Achievement                                      |
| Eva Van de Weijer-Bergsma | Do Coping Strategies Moderate the Relationship between Math Self-Concept, Math Anxiety And Math Performance?      |
| Sara Vergallo             | Reducing Math Anxiety Through Mindful Breathing in First-Year STEM Students                                       |
| Silke Wortha              | Math Anxiety in Later Life: Distinct Impacts on Cognitive Interference, Health Literacy, and Financial Well-being |
| Anastasiia Yakovenko      | From Mathematics Anxiety to Mathematics as Therapy: Real Cases from a Ukrainian University                        |