

TODOS 2018 Conference Keynote

Dr. Maria del Rosario Zavala

TODOS is excited to announce the Keynote speaker for our 2018 Conference, Dr. Zavala!

Dr. Maria del Rosario Zavala is an Assistant Professor of Elementary Education at San Francisco State University. Prior to joining the faculty at SF State, she worked in a variety of capacities in K-12 classrooms as a mathematics and writing teacher, in a variety of settings. She researches issues of mathematics education equity and social justice through a focus on students' racial and linguistic identities in the mathematics classroom, teachers' identities as culturally responsive mathematics teachers, and various issues in bilingual mathematics education. In her work with in-service and pre-service mathematics teachers, Dr. Zavala focuses on developing competencies in instruction centered on students' thinking and that takes into account students' multiple identities that they bring to the classroom.



Embracing Personal and Professional Disequilibrium in a Quest for Social Justice in Mathematics Education

The plenary session will be a chance to begin to think about ideas and questions to guide participants work throughout the conference. Dr. Zavala will start from the question, *“In what ways can each of us challenge systems of oppression that continue the marginalization of large sections of the population from learning rigorous mathematics?”* Dr. Zavala proposes that true commitment to social justice requires first accepting that if you are not committed then you are complicit in upholding an unjust system, and second, that change will require discomfort, both personal and professional. In the same way that teachers may ask students to experience a productive disequilibrium when learning mathematics, participants will explore what productive personal and professional disequilibrium may mean if they are to truly enact change. Using examples from contemporary research and policy, participants will think about what questions are truly necessary to be asking themselves, and what values underlie particular questions and decisions.

Key questions that will guide this keynote include:

- *What is the hardest question I can ask myself right now about my educational practice?*
- *What values lie at the heart of this question?*
- *Who will benefit, and how will they benefit?*