What is underrepresentation? Why is it bad?

OR

An exploration of civil rights within mathematics

Dagan Karp
Harvey Mudd College

Abstract

These are exciting times in society, in mathematics, and in the Department of Mathematics at Mudd. As we embark on a Strategic Vision towards diversity, there are several questions that we may ask ourselves. Why are there more male mathematics faculty than female? Similarly for visible minorities? What are the actual numbers nationally? What is mathematical talent, and who has it?

In this seminar I will present lots of data describing the current and historical state of mathematics in the US with regard to these demographics. Further, I hope to begin a discussion surrounding the above questions. And I hope that this may be of interest not only to mathematics faculty, but also to students broadly speaking, and faculty in other scientific disciplines, and also those interested in the relationship between science and society, and the history of science.