



A Statement from Jo Boaler, Nomellini-Olivier Professor, Stanford University

This latest round of accusations circulating on X and via some news media is part of a continuing pattern of harassment that [started decades ago](#) in response to my research on equitable mathematics teaching approaches. In these most recent attacks, an [anonymous](#) accusation of academic misconduct was sent first to the far-right publication the Free Beacon and then, days later, to Stanford. This is the same pattern of attack used against Black DEI faculty at Harvard, as reported [here](#). The Chronicle of Higher Education immediately and uncritically reposted the accusations. The reporter at the Chronicle made no attempt to verify their legitimacy, and instead relied wholly on the Free Beacon's reporting – a shoddy and indolent journalistic approach at best. The anonymous accusations were presented as a 100-page document, said to include 52 accusations of research misuse – but there were only 15 studies mentioned, most of them from the California Mathematics Framework (CMF) and seven of them were on the timed testing of math facts.

This is another attempt to undermine the California Mathematics Framework, by falsely framing me as the behind-the-scenes string puller who conjured the whole CMF into existence, this time with spurious claims that the research in the framework is flawed. The framework was initially designed by a committee of 20 educators, and drafted by a team of five writers, of which I was one. The team was led by a respected professor from Chico State University. Later versions of the CMF were vetted and edited extensively with new material added by a team from WestEd. Most of the studies mentioned in the anonymous complaint were in sections of the framework I had no role in writing.

The anonymous accusers queried seven articles discussing the downsides of timed tests used to assess retention of math facts, a pedagogy that reinforces inequality in mathematics, and which the anonymous accusers strongly endorse. All the studies were accurately reported, with one misplaced citation, which has now been replaced with the correct one. More than half of the arguments in the anonymous accusers' document were repeated verbatim, that is they were literally copied and pasted, many of them three times, to extend its length. In all cases the anonymous accusations demonstrate a complete lack of understanding of educational research approaches, or a simple difference in interpretation of results. Neither I, nor many others who have read their accusations, think they show any evidence of “academic misconduct.” Stanford reviews such submissions carefully and deliberately, and in their own time I expect Stanford will come to the same conclusion.

There will always be differing opinions about educational practices, and disagreement and debate are acceptable modes of reaching consensus. But politicized attacks on the reputations, livelihoods, and safety of researchers, undermine the process of knowledge production and ultimately threaten higher education itself. That really is the central aim of the people behind this campaign.

Despite the continued vicious activities of the organized group that is so intent on threatening, defaming, and harassing me, I will continue to work to help make mathematics a subject that all students have the fundamental right to learn, understand, and enjoy.

If you would like to help or add support as I face this latest round of baseless attacks, please email me (joboaler@gmail.com), sharing your name and job title, or role in education.