

Math Trailblazers

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The Secret Lives of Numbers
The Trailblazer: My Mathematical Journey
A History of Women in Mathematics
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shortlisted for the 2024 british academy book prize a new history of mathematics focusing on the marginalized voices who propelled the discipline spanning six continents and thousands of years of untold stories a book to make you love math financial times mathematics shapes almost everything we do but despite its reputation as the study of fundamental truths the stories we have been told about it are wrong warped like the sixteenth century map that enlarged europe at the expense of africa asia and the americas in the secret lives of numbers renowned math historian kate kitagawa and journalist timothy revell make the case that the history of math is infinitely deeper broader and richer than the narrative we think we know our story takes us from hypatia the first great female mathematician whose ideas revolutionized geometry and who was killed for them to karen uhlenbeck the first woman to win the abel prize math s nobel along the way we travel the globe to meet the brilliant arabic scholars of the house of wisdom a math temple whose destruction in the siege of baghdad in the thirteenth century was a loss arguably on par with that of the library of alexandria madhava of sangamagrama the fourteenth century indian genius who uncovered the central tenets of calculus 300 years before isaac newton was born and the black mathematicians of the civil rights era who played a significant role in dismantling early data based methods of racial discrimination covering thousands of years six continents and just about every mathematical discipline the secret lives of numbers is an immensely compelling narrative history

telabee is a self motivated student who always works hard to achieve her goals and help others although she loved drawing and dreamed of becoming an artist and dr swope her plans were interrupted and altered leaving her to question her undiscovered gift as a mathematician enduring many obstacles telabee finally achieves one of her dreams becoming dr swope the first black person to earn a doctorate in urban education mathematics education

from ancient greece to medieval baghdad from revolutionary france to china s qing dynasty women mathematicians have worked alongside men to a degree that was denied them in most other fields of scientific inquiry locked out of biological studies first by restrictions on their freedom of travel and later because of concerns that they would be corrupted by evolutionary thought effectively barred from experimental physics for centuries through lack of access to specialized equipment and inconsistently permitted a medical education women have for three thousand years and more been a steady presence during every great mathematical era they have contributed to the fundamentals

of geometry and the expansion of algebra from the earliest days of those disciplines and stepped in on multiple occasions to save the mathematical traditions of their home countries from death by ossification they have guided us through the twisted realms of non euclidean space gifted us the mathematical models we need to understand the behavior of the metals of our buildings and the soils we construct them upon and given us an at times chilling view into the fates of super massive systems over deep time a history of women in mathematics the first comprehensive account of women s role in mathematics in 35 years tells the stories of over a hundred women some of whom had to go to the lengths of lying about their gender in correspondence or secrete themselves behind screens during lectures to access the mathematical resources that their male counterparts took for granted but many of whom had positions of academic honor and international prestige that women in other fields would have to wait centuries to attain from theano of croton to rachel riley here are the tales of the women who have illuminated and demystified the profound structures upon which our reality is built with stones of number and mortar of imagination

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