



## CRMSE Colloquium Announcement



### **How peer role models protect women's math test performance under threat**

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**Friday, April 29, 2016**  
1:00-2:00 pm  
6475 Alvarado Road, Suite 128

**RSVP:** <http://crmse.wufoo.com/forms/crmse-colloquia/> or  
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Abstract: According to theory and research on *stereotype threat* (Spence, Steele, & Quinn, 1999; Steele, 1997) women underperform on challenging math tests, in part, because they are worried about being viewed in terms of the negative group-based stereotype alleging their mathematical inferiority (i.e., “women are bad at math”). Given this predicament, I will discuss research on a peer role model intervention designed to offset the negative effects of stereotype threat on women's math test performance. In the first part of my talk I will provide evidence for the basic role model effect as well as detail some of the boundary conditions of the effect. In the next part of my talk I will discuss a set of experiments that extends the peer role model effect: These experiments demonstrate that male peers can serve as effective role models to the same degree as female peers provided that the male peers are *not* viewed as threatening or potentially judgmental. I conclude my talk with some thoughts about how best to utilize the power of peer role models in real world math classrooms.

