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Application Form for the CMS 2019 Endowment Grants Competition | Deadline September 30

## Title of Proposal

Queer and Trans Mathematicians in Combinatorics conference (QTMC)

## Contact information

*The one person and place to communicate with the applicant(s).*

| | |
|---|---|
| Name | Aram Dermenjian |
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| Telephone | 514-568-5794 |
| Fax | |

## Institution or department to administer grant funds

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Name | n/a (see Other) | | |
| Address | | Contact | |
| | | E-mail | |
| | | Telephone | |
| | | Fax | |

## Summary
*Less than 100 words*                    Total amount requested in this competition $ 2500

The Queer and Trans Mathematicians in Combinatorics conference (QTMC) is a first-ever event in combinatorics specifically aimed at queer and trans mathematicians. It aims to bring together and support queer and trans combinatorists. The conference promotes a supportive and active collaborative environment for the participants and aims to bring about visibility to an otherwise underrepresented invisible minority in the combinatorics community. The QTMCis heavily geared toward students, postdocs and early career mathematicians who are queer and/or trans.

## Applicants
*Put any specific information on the relevant experience or expertise of an applicant in "Other".*

| Name(s) | Aram Dermenjian | Mike Zabrocki | Ray Karpman / Shelly Bouchot |
|---|---|---|---|
| E-mail | aram.dermenjian@gmail.com | zabrocki@mathstat.yorku.ca | karpman1@otterbein.edu / rbouchat@iup.e |
| Position | Postdoc | Professor | Assistant Professor / Associate Professor |
| Employer | York University | York University | Otterbein College / Indiana University of Pe |
| Address | Aram Dermenjian | Mike Zabrocki | |
| | York University | York University | |
| | Mathematics and Statistics | Mathematics and Statistics | |
| | 4700 Keele Street | 4700 Keele Street | |
| | Toronto, Ontario M3J 1P3 | Toronto, Ontario M3J 1P3 | |
| CMS Member # | | | |
| Current grants | | | |

## What you propose to do
*at most 40 lines*

The Queer and Trans Mathematicians in Combinatorics conference (QTMC) is a first-ever event in combinatorics specifically aimed at queer and trans mathematicians. Due to its commitment to diversity in mathematics, the CMS would be an ideal sponsor to help fund students, postdocs and early career mathematicians from across Canada to this conference.

The main focus of the QTMC is to promote retention of queer and trans mathematicians in combinatorics, by bringing visibility to an otherwise invisible minority within math. Queer and trans mathematicians are less likely to be out at work than their counterparts in the  life sciences, physical sciences, or social sciences. The invisibility of queer and trans people within mathematics may be due to stigma, fear of discrimination or a relative lack of prominent queer and trans-focused groups and events. Queer and trans invisibility is a major issue for the mathematics community.  Early-career mathematicians who identify as queer or trans may struggle to find role models, mentors or even peers who share those identities.  As a result, they may feel isolated and unwelcome in mathematics, and may leave to pursue other careers.  Studies have shown that retention rates for queer students in STEM are lower than for their heterosexual peers.

The QTMC aims to help bring visibility to the rich queer and trans community in combinatorics. This is done by having two prominent invited speakers (Mohamed Omar and Érika Roldán Roa), who are both openly queer; and by creating a safe environment for queer and trans mathematicians to meet, network and collaborate. For queer and trans mathematicians, finding collaborators can pose a unique challenge. For many queer and trans people, coming out is a lifelong process. Each person they meet, each organization they encounter, every application they fill, they have to make a decision on whether or not they will reveal their queer or trans identity, or stay hidden. QTMC will give queer and trans mathematicians a safer space to find collaborators, without navigating the potential barriers of homophobia and transphobia. Through events like QTMC, queer and trans mathematicians will build networks of queer, trans, and allied mathematicians, which will lead to new and productive research collaborations.

In sum, QTMC will be a venue for queer and trans mathematicians to network, learn and present their research, all in a safer space that promotes their growth as mathematicians. Early-career participants will meet and learn from queer and trans role models, while meeting potential collaborators. This will help participants expand their networks in the field, strengthening their feelings of belonging in academia, and promoting their mathematical success.

# Budget

*Use Tab key to navigate*

| Description | Revenue | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Fields (unconfirmed) | 9000 | | |
| NSF (unconfirmed) | 5000 | | |
| AARMS/CRM/PIMS (1/3 confirmed) | 3000 | | |
| CMS (unconfirmed) | 2500 | | |
| Registration Fees | 1800 | | |
| CMS Endowment Grant requested | | | |
| Total Revenue **$** | 21300 | | |

| | Expenses | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Invited speakers | 4020 | | |
| General student participation funding | 9800 | | |
| Gneral postdoc/early career participation funding | 3650 | | |
| Coffee breaks | 1800 | | |
| Printing materials (name tags, programs, posters, etc.) | 530 | | |
| Other (graphic designer, unexpected expenses) | 500 | | |
| Total Expenses **$** | 21300 | | |

Other        *Funding, partners, revenue potential, information on applicants such as publications or awards, at most 20 lines.*

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The funding requested from the CMS would be used to help fund students and
early career mathematicians to attend the conference. Therefore the funding
would be administered directly to the individuals. If this is not possible, we
can determine where the grant funds should be administered.
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Project start date  | 12 June 2020         Finish date  | 14 June 2020