

## MATH DEPARTMENT COLLOQUIUM



**Prof. Dan Battey**  
**Rutgers University**  
**Friday, April 19, 2019**  
**3:30 – 4:30 PM**  
**DERR 329**

### ***Racial Bias in Math: Understanding the Impact of Racial Attitudes on Pre-service Teachers' Perceptions of Children's Mathematical Thinking***

Recent international studies have found that teachers attitudes, biased against historically marginalized groups, predict lower student achievement (e.g. van den Bergh et al., 2010). It is not clear, however, how teachers' attitudes operate in classrooms to produce these effects. Using an experimental design, preservice teachers (PSTs) completed an online survey to examine the effects of racial attitudes on perceptions of students' mathematical thinking. The survey used equivalent videos, controlling for mathematics content and student thinking, one including African American and the other white students. Findings show that PSTs perceived African American students' competence to be lower compared to white students. How much time PSTs spent in African American communities as well as explicit, but not implicit, racial attitudes affected their perceptions.