

# Kseniya Garaschuk

I am an Assistant Professor at the University of the Fraser Valley. In my job, I teach undergraduate courses, I conduct math education research, I participate in many outreach activities, edit a problem solving journal, organize seminars and advise on various educational initiatives by sitting on different committees.



I was born in Minsk, Belarus, which at the time was part of the USSR (indeed, I was born in the USSR). My parents and I moved to Canada when I was 18 after I completed the first year of Mathematics and Computer Science degree at the Belorussian State University. After taking a year off to strengthen my English, I enrolled into a BSc degree at Simon Fraser University (SFU). Once I graduated from SFU, I moved to the University of Victoria (UVic) for my PhD to work. After completing my PhD, I proceeded in the new direction, which took me to University of British Columbia for a postdoctoral fellowship in the Carl Weiman Science Education Initiative.

Throughout my academic career, I have been strongly involved with student initiatives. As an undergraduate, I was a secretary and then a treasurer of the Math Student Union at SFU. As a graduate student, I organized the Canadian Undergraduate Mathematical Conference and Pure Math Graduate Student Conference at SFU. During my time at the UVic as a PhD student, I founded a graduate student society that organized department seminars, weekly Tuesday tea and Friday beer, played intramural volleyball (Power Set team), ran 10K races (Sprintegers, Jogathirims and Random Walkers) and threw legendary end-of-term dress-up parties. All of these initiatives allowed me to participate in building a community to be a part of, which often helped me both personally and professionally.

Of course some of my pastimes and hobbies involve mathematics. For example, I enjoy reading research papers and books on teaching and learning, but I particularly enjoy doing so in my pajamas with a glass of red wine, which effectively makes it a hobby. I like good food, especially in good company. I love camping and hiking. I also have two "live" hobbies, a toddler and a dog, making patience the biggest recent addition to my personality traits.