

Veselin Jungic

In 1999 I received a PhD from Simon Fraser University where I am now a Teaching Professor, a job which I love. I also do research in Mathematics and Mathematics Education.

Math Girl

In the mid 2000s I created four animated films about the adventures of Math Girl. In her civilian clothes Math Girl is an ordinary student, a smart girl that wears glasses. When she takes her superpower alter ego, thanks to her superb understanding of mathematics, Math Girl becomes a super heroine.

I believe that mathematics, from counting one's fingers to engaging in its most abstract forms, is a human way of dealing with the real world, both on an individual level and on the level of humanity. I believe that what mathematicians have been doing through the centuries is trying to understand and describe particular aspects of reality for the benefit of all humanity. Thus, in my opinion, mathematics, as both a cumulative experience and an ongoing process, is something inherently useful.

Read our complete interview with Veselin.

I was born in former Yugoslavia and completed a B.Sc. in mathematics at the University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and an M.Sc. in mathematics at the University of Zagreb, Croatia. When the Bosnian war started in April 1992, my wife and I decided to run away. Our sons were four and two years old at the time, so to keep them in the middle of what would become a terrible war was not an option. We moved to Vancouver, B.C., where my brother owned a small restaurant and for the next three years I paid my new immigrant dues by cooking Italian food for six days per week.



Math Girl, Small Number and Veselin

Small Number

Over the last several years (2010-16) I have co-written eight stories about Small Number, an Aboriginal boy who sees and discovers mathematics everywhere. I have produced 30 animated films based on those stories. Twenty-two of the films were narrated in the Blackfoot, Cree, Halq'eméylem, Heiltsuk, Hul'q'umi'num', Huu-ay-aht, Nisga'a, Sliammon, and Squamish languages.

Math Girl

<http://people.math.sfu.ca/~vjungic/MathGirl.html>

Small Number

<http://mathcatcher.irmacs.sfu.ca/stories>

I do not think that mathematics is 'fun'. I think that mathematics is quite challenging for the most of the people, including the majority of mathematicians.

MathCentral.uregina.ca/careers/