CHRISTINA DURÓN

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ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor of Mathematics   *Aug 2022 – Present*
Natural Science Division of Seaver College, Pepperdine University

Postdoctoral Research Associate   *Aug 2019 – May 2022*
Department of Mathematics, University of Arizona

High School Teacher   *Aug 2013 – June 2019*
Mathematics Department, The Webb Schools of California

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Network Theory; Network Dynamics; Statistical Analysis and Modeling of Complex Networks; Mathematical-Biology

EDUCATION

Claremont Graduate University   *May 2019*
Ph.D. in Mathematics

- **Thesis**: The Distribution of Betweenness Centrality in Exponential Random Graph Models
- **Advisors**: Dr. Ami Radunskaya (Professor, Pomona College) and Dr. Johanna Hardin (Professor, Pomona College)

University of Washington   *June 2013*
Master's in Applied Mathematics

Swarthmore College   *May 2012*
Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics; Minor in Computer Science

PUBLICATIONS *

10. Pfeffer D, **Durón C**. (2025). An Unlikely Duo: Injecting Art Projects in the Mathematics Classroom. *Journal of Humanistic Mathematics*, 15(1), 87-108. doi: 10.5642/jhummath.RDDV3141

9. Kravitz H, **Durón C**, Brio M. (2024). A Coupled Spatial-Network Model: A Mathematical Framework for Applications in Epidemiology. *Bulletin of Mathematical Biology*, 86(132): 1 – 35. doi: 10.1007/s11538-024-01364-3

8. **Durón C**, Swansen B[†], Kravitz H. (2024). Difference Approximation. *Wiley StatsRef: Statistics Reference Online* (eds N. Balakrishnan, T. Colton, B. Everitt, W. Piegorsch, F. Ruggeri and J.L. Teugels). doi: 10.1002/9781118445112.stat08440

7. Sullivant N, **Durón C**, Pfeffer D. (2023). From Mirrors to Wallpapers: A Virtual Math Circle Module on Symmetry. *Journal of Math Circles*: Vol. 3: Iss. 1, Article 1. Available at https://digitalcommons.cwu.edu/mathcirclesjournal/vol3/iss1/1.

6. **Durón C**. (2022). Adaptive Quadrature. *Wiley StatsRef: Statistics Reference Online* (eds N. Balakrishnan, T. Colton, B. Everitt, W. Piegorsch, F. Ruggeri and J.L. Teugels). doi: 10.1002/9781118445112.stat08388

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* Authors are ordered by contribution.
† Undergraduate student.

5. **Durón C**, Farrell A. (2022). A Mean-Field Approximation of SIR Epidemics on an Erdös-Rényi Network Model. *Bulletin of Mathematical Biology*, 84(7): 1 – 19. doi: 10.1007/s11538-022-01026-2

4. **Durón C**. (2021). Linear Algebra, Computational. *Wiley StatsRef: Statistics Reference Online* (eds N. Balakrishnan, T. Colton, B. Everitt, W. Piegorsch, F. Ruggeri and J.L. Teugels). doi: 10.1002/9781118445112.stat00459.pub2

3. **Durón C**. (2020). Heatmap Centrality: A New Measure to Identify Super-Spreader Nodes in Scale-Free Networks. *PLoS ONE*, 15(7): e0235690. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0235690

2. **Durón C**, Pan Y, Gutmann D.H., Hardin J, & Radunskaya A. (2018). Variability of Betweenness Centrality and Its Effect on Identifying Essential Genes. *Bulletin of Mathematical Biology*, 81(9): 3655 – 3673. doi: 10.1007/s11538-018-0526-z

1. Pan Y, **Durón C**, Bush E.C., et al. (2018). Graph Complexity Analysis Identifies an ETV5 Tumor-Specific Network in Human and Murine Low-Grade Glioma. *PLoS ONE*, 13(5): e0190001. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0190001

UNDER REVIEW *

1. **Durón C**, Mello J[†], Kamps K[†]. (Sept 2024). Network Evaluation of Influential Sensors on Critical Infrastructures. *International Journal on Hydropower & Dams*.

IN PREPARATION

1. O'Brien E, **Durón C**. (Aug 2024). The Wasserstein metric as a tool to assess burn-in and convergence. *Statistical Science*.

RESEARCH POSITIONS

Graduate Research Assistant   *Jan 2017 – June 2018*
Pomona College

- NIH (1R01-CA195692-01) funding under Dr. Ami Radunskaya and Dr. Johanna Hardin

Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) Intern   *June 2015 – August 2015*
California Institute of Technology

- Implemented the Extended Kalman Filter (EFK) and incorporated inter-robot measurements to improve the state estimation and localization of autonomous vehicles

Mathematical and Theoretical Biology Institute Researcher   *June 2011 – July 2011*
Arizona State University

- Developed a mathematical model for the evaluation and analysis of the air pollution in Los Angeles

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record
Pepperdine University

- **MATH 450: Mathematical Statistics**   *Spring 2024*

- **MATH 350: Mathematical Probability**   *Fall 2023*

- **MATH 260: Linear Algebra**   *Spring 2023, Fall 2024*

- **MATH 150: Calculus I**   *Fall 2022, Spring 2023,*
                                                                                                                     Fall 2023, Spring 2024
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[†] Undergraduate student.

Instructor of Record
University of Arizona

- MATH 491: Undergraduate Teaching Assistantship (UTA) Seminar   *Fall 2021 – Spring 2022*
- MATH 196M: Calculus I Supplementary Seminar   *Spring 2022*
- MATH 396L: Wildcats Proofs Workshop   *Spring 2022*
- MATH 464: Theory of Probability   *Fall 2021*
- MATH 363: Introduction to Statistical Methods   *Spring 2021*
- MATH 129: Calculus II   *Fall 2020*
- MATH 475A: Mathematical Principles of Numerical Analysis   *Fall 2020*
- MATH 163: Basic Statistics   *Spring 2020*
- MATH 122B: First Semester Calculus   *Fall 2019*
- MATH 196L: Precalculus Supplementary Seminar   *Fall 2019*

Instructor of Record
The Webb Schools of California

- Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles   *Fall 2018 – Spring 2019*
- Honors Precalculus   *Fall 2014 – Spring 2019*
- Introduction to Computer Programming with Python   *Fall 2014 – Spring 2018*
- Precalculus   *Fall 2013 – Spring 2019*
- Integrated Mathematics 2   *Fall 2013 – Spring 2014*

PRESENTATIONS

Student-Directed

2. **Using Networks to Evaluate an Infrastructure's Condition During Seismic Activity: A Proposed Approach**   *Jan 2024*
   JMM: AMS - PME Undergraduate Student Poster Session

1. **Using Networks to Evaluate an Infrastructure's Condition During Seismic Activity: A Proposed Approach**   *July 2023*
   Pepperdine University, Natural Science Division Summer Research

Contributed

7. **A Coupled Spatial-Network Model for Epidemiology**   *July 2024*
   Frankfurt School of Finance and Management Workshop on Metric Networks

6. **Math Circles: Elevating Student Engagement and Mathematical Enjoyment Outside the Classroom**   *Jan 2024*
   University of Arizona Mathematics Educator Appreciation Day Conference (MEAD)

5. **Incorporating Undergraduate Students in Research on Assessing Dam Safety Using Network Analysis**   *Jan 2024*
   JMM Special Session: Navigating the Benefits and Challenges of Mentoring Students in Data-Driven Undergraduate Research Projects

4. **Tiling a Chessboard: A Problem Adapted for the Virtual Math Circle**   *Jan 2023*
   JMM Special Session: Math Circle Activities as a Gateway into Mathematics

3. **A Mean Field Approximation of SIR Epidemics on an Erdös-Rényi Network Model**   *May 2021*
   Los Alamos-Arizona Days Conference (Virtual Poster)

2. **Identifying Super-Spreader Nodes in Scale-Free Networks using Network Centrality Measures** *Sept 2020*
   Arizona Postdoctoral Research Conference (Virtual Talk)

1. **Identifying Treatment Targets for Pediatric Gliomas using Network Centrality Measures** *June 2020*
   SIAM Conference on the Life Sciences (Virtual Talk)

Seminar

4. **A Coupled Spatial-Network Model for Epidemiology** *Nov 2023*
   University of Florida, Health Systems Medicine Seminar (Virtual Talk)

3. **Network Centrality: Theory to Applications** *Oct 2021*
   Arizona State University, Mathematical Biology Seminar (Virtual Talk)

2. **Heatmap Centrality: A New Measure to Identify Super-Spreader Nodes in Scale-Free Networks** *Feb 2021*
   Claremont Colleges and University of Utah, Joint Applied Mathematics Seminar (Virtual Talk)

1. **Network Data Analysis Techniques on DESeq and RNASeq Data** *Nov 2019*
   University of Arizona, TRIPODS Research Working Group 6 - Analyzing large-scale point-set data

Industry

1. **Network Evaluation of Influential Sensors: A Proposed Approach**[‡] *March 2024*
   California Department of Water Resources

2. **Network Evaluation of Influential Sensors: A Proposed Approach**[‡] *Nov 2023*
   Southern California Edison, Dam & Public Safety Group

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Program

- **Project NExT** (Green 2023) *Aug 2023 – Aug 2024*
  Mathematical Association of America (MAA)
  - Focused on all aspects of an academic career: improving the teaching and learning of mathematics, engaging in research and scholarship, finding exciting and interesting service opportunities, and participating in professional activities

Certification

- **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Workplace** *May 2021*
  University of South Florida
  - Focused on ways that organizations can create a more diverse workplace, address equity issues, and foster inclusivity

- **Effective Online Discussions** *June 2020*
  University of Arizona
  - Developed strategies for designing and facilitating effective online discussions that deepen learning, expand student exposure to curriculum, and increase student engagement

- **Teaching the Large Online Course** *June 2020*
  University of Arizona
  - Developed instructional practices for encouraging student engagement and motivation in a large online class, as well as for effectively managing administrative tasks such as monitoring student progress and conducting assessments

Workshops

- **Network Modeling for Epidemics** *Aug 2020*
  University of Washington

[‡] Presented with undergraduate students.
[‡] Presented with undergraduate students.

- **BioBridge Clinic**   *Jan 2020*
  University of California, Irvine

- **Computational Genomics Summer Institute**   *May 2019*
  University of California, Los Angeles

SERVICE

Mentoring and Advising

- **Undergraduate Research Advisor** (Team of 2 undergraduates)   *Summer 2023 – Present*
  Pepperdine University

- **Math Club Vice-Principal Faculty Advisor**   *Spring 2023 – Fall 2023*
  Pepperdine University

- **Undergraduate Student Mentor**   *Spring 2023 – Fall 2023*
  Pepperdine University, Faculty/Student Mentor Program

- **Undergraduate Student Mentor**   *Fall 2021 – Spring 2022*
  University of Arizona, Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) Program

- **Graduate Student Mentor**   *Fall 2021 – Spring 2022*
  University of Arizona, Association for Women in Mathematics (AWM) Mentor Network

- **Undergraduate Research Advisor**   *Fall 2020 – Spring 2021*
  University of Arizona

- **Mathematics Undergraduate Teaching Assistantship (UTA) Program Mentor**   *Fall 2020 – Spring 2021*
  University of Arizona

- **Mathematical Modeling Group Mentor** (Team of 4 undergraduates)   *Spring 2020*
  University of Arizona

- **Math Club Advisor**   *Fall 2017 – Spring 2019*
  The Webb Schools of California

University and Departmental Service

- **Institutional Review Board, Natural Science Representative**   *Fall 2023 – Present*
  Pepperdine University
    - Review research study protocol/application materials (exempt, expedited, and full review) and evaluate them from the perspective of the regulatory criteria for approval.

- **Admissions and Scholarship Committee**   *Fall 2023 – Present*
  Pepperdine University
    - Review student applications and select Faculty-Staff Scholars based on merit, including academic performance and recommendations.

- **Co-Instructor of RISE/Connection Chapel**   *Fall 2023*
  Pepperdine University
    - Facilitated discussions on different aspects of science from the Christian perspective, primarily in the disciplines of history, physics, astronomy, and mathematics, with students over five sessions

- **Member of Hiring Committee, Assistant Professor of Mathematics (AY 24/25)**   *Fall 2023 – Spring 2024*
  Pepperdine University
    - Served on the seven-member review committee whose duties included reading through application packages, conducting virtual interviews via Zoom and in-person interviews on campus, collecting and consolidating information about the interviews, and making final recommendations

- **Member of Hiring Committee, Visiting Assistant Professor of Mathematics (AY 23/24)** *Summer 2023*
  Pepperdine University
    - Served on the five-member review committee whose duties included reading through application packages, conducting virtual interviews via Zoom, collecting and consolidating information about the interviews, and making final recommendations

- **Member of Hiring Committee, Assistant Professor of Mathematics (AY 23/24)** *Fall 2022 – Spring 2023*
  Pepperdine University
    - Served on the seven-member review committee whose duties included reading through application packages, conducting virtual interviews via Zoom and in-person interviews on campus, collecting and consolidating information about the interviews, and making final recommendations

- **Member of Review Committee, Excellence in Postdoctoral Mentoring Award** *Spring 2022*
  University of Arizona
    - Served on the three-member review committee that determined the recipient of the 2022 Excellence in Postdoctoral Mentoring Award

- **President, Postdoctoral Governance** *Fall 2021 – Spring 2022*
  University of Arizona
    - Serve as an in-between for the postdocs and the Postdoctoral Committee, and organize the postdoctoral professional development seminar topics and panels

- **Mathematics Undergraduate Teaching Assistantship (UTA) Program, Director** *Fall 2021 – Spring 2022*
  University of Arizona
    - Coordinate the mentorship of the UTA's, and run the weekly professional development seminar

- **Mathematics Undergraduate Teaching Assistantship (UTA) Program, Co-Director** *Fall 2020 – Spring 2021*
  University of Arizona
    - Supported the Director of the UTA Program, and was responsible for additional duties related to the weekly professional development seminar

- **Vice President, Postdoctoral Governance** *Fall 2020 – Spring 2021*
  University of Arizona
    - Supported the President of the Postdoctoral Governance, and was responsible for additional duties related to the postdoctoral professional development seminars

- **Non-Academic Liaison, Postdoctoral Governance** *Spring 2020*
  University of Arizona
    - Organized a panel pertaining to non-academic careers for the postdoctoral professional development seminar

Service to the Discipline

- **JMM 2024, Co-Organizer of MAA Project NExT Session** *Jan 2024*
  Pepperdine University
    - "Making Student Thinking Visible with Team-Based Inquiry Learning"

- **MAA MathFest 2022, Co-Organizer of Themed Contributed Paper Session** *Aug 2022*
  University of Arizona
    - "Math Circles: Talks about Mathematical Joy, Inspirations, and Data-Driven Lessons Learned"

- **Reviewer for:**
    - Complexity *March 2023*
    - Indian Journal of Discrete Mathematics *Nov 2020*
    - DNA and Cell Biology *Jan 2020*

- Revista de Matemática: Teoría y Aplicaciones *Oct 2019*

- **Mathematics and MATLAB Summer Workshop, Co-Coordinator** *June 2016 – June 2018*
Claremont Graduate University

- **Mathematics and MATLAB Summer Workshop, Co-Instructor** *June 2016 – June 2017*
Claremont Graduate University

Outreach

- **How I Found My Network: My Path to Mathematics** *Nov 2021*
Arizona State University
  - Keynote address for Sonia Kovalevsky Day

- **Tucson Math Circle** *Aug 2019 – Present*
University of Arizona
  - Co-develop materials and co-run the university sponsored weekly program designed to get middle school students excited about mathematics through hands-on exploration and discovery

- **Association for Women in Mathematics (AWM): Sonia Kovalevsky Day** *April 2021*
University of Arizona
  - Developed materials and co-ran a workshop designed to bolster female high school and middle school students' passion and enthusiasm for mathematics in a supportive environment

- **The Seven Bridges of Königsberg** *Nov 2022*
Pepperdine University
  - Talk given to Math Club during Tuesday Tea

- **Using Network Centrality Measures to Identify Unknown Regulatory Pathways in Pediatric Glioma** *Sept 2020*
University of Arizona
  - Talk given to The MathCats Club (undergraduate math club)

HONORS AND AWARDS

The Teaching and Service Award *April 2022*
University of Arizona, Department of Mathematics

The Jean E. Miller Excellence in Teaching Award *June 2018*
The Webb Schools of California

The Thompson and Vivian Webb Excellence in Teaching Award *June 2015*
The Webb Schools of California

The Heinrich W. Brinkmann Mathematics Prize *June 2012*
Swarthmore College

FUNDING

Research Grants

- **Academic Year Undergraduate Research Initiative** ($1,000) *Sept 2023*
Pepperdine University

- **Collaborative Research Grant for Postdocs** ($1,500) *June 2020*
University of Arizona

Travel Awards

- **AIM SQuaRE Research Collaboration** *April 2025*
  American Institute of Mathematics (AIM)

- **TDA-BIO** ($1,000) *Oct 2016*
  ACM Conference on Bioinformatics, Computational Biology, and Health Informatics

Fellowships

- **Clinic Fellowship** ($900) *Jan 2020*
  University of California, Irvine

- **Daniel Pick Fellowship** ($10,000) *Oct 2017*
  Claremont Graduate University

- **Joseph and Elizabeth Peeler Endowed Fellowship** ($32,570) *Aug 2015 – June 2017*
  Claremont Graduate University

- **CGU Mathematics Fellowship** ($13,700) *Aug 2014 – June 2015, June 2017*
  Claremont Graduate University

- **CGU Minority Fellowship** ($2,000) *Aug 2014 – June 2016*
  Claremont Graduate University

SKILLS

Programming Languages

- C (*Moderate proficiency*)
- C++ (*Moderate proficiency*)
- MATLAB (*Proficient*)
- Python (*Proficient*)
- R (*Proficient*)

Scientific Applications

- GitHub
- LaTex
- RSweave

Languages

- English (*Native*)
- Spanish (*Reading, writing, and conversational speaking*)