

## **Some tools for thinking culturally about mathematics**

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Mathematics can be thought of culturally, that is, as a collection of practices expressive of values. Unlike most culture (music, hat-fashion, cookery) mathematics can progress and mathematical thoughts can be true or false. Nevertheless, there are various ways of doing mathematics and these differences express values.

In this talk, I will describe two theoretical models for thinking about culture and values. One is due to Alan Bishop and the other to Gert Hofstede. I will suggest some ways to apply these models to Mathematical Olympiads and encourage participants to develop their own.