# Transforming mathematics through an ungrounded locality: Imagining mathematical 'abclusion'

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In the dizzying context of post-Brexit isolationism and global climate apocalypse, the Union Jacks adorning UK-sourced supermarket produce conflate the "local" and the "national", invoking, in one iconic gesture, both climate consciousness and national pride. This conflation reflects the ways mathematics is too often positioned as neutral and universal while simultaneously reinforcing fixed, exclusionary and monocultural notions of locality. The Manchester-based Very Local Maths project (VLM) challenges the assumption that mathematics is apolitical, culturally neutral and universally accessible by mobilising the concept of 'locality' to rethink mathematical practices as both grounded in and ungrounded by "very local" activities.

Framing our work as a feminist intervention, this paper examines how locality can operate as a site of pluralistic potential that unsettles boundaries of (in/ex)clusion, disrupting colonial logics and fostering new mathematical imaginaries. Inspired by Massey's (2005) reframing of space as dynamic, relational, and always under construction, we propose the concept of mathematical "abclusion" as a perspective that resists both exclusionary gatekeeping and enclosing assimilation. Our abclusive approach reimagines the local as fluid, generative, and permeable, using it to "intensify the possible" (Debaise & Stengers, 2017), in ways that challenge its historically gendered, racialised and classed mathematical marginalisation. Telling the story from the perspective of our youth-led and arts-engaged workshops at the Moss Side Millenium Powerhouse, we explore how the project's "locus" serves as a catalyst for new forms of mathematical engagement and possibilities.

**Key words**: Abclusion, Feminist Mathematics, Spatiality, Locality, Decolonial