



May12 Celebrating Women in Mathematics

Attend in person or online | 12 May 2025 | 12h30-13h15 SAST

Join us on **Monday, 12 May 2025** – the birthday of trailblazing mathematician Maryam Mirzakhani – as we celebrate with the global mathematical community the achievements of women in mathematics.

The South African Mathematical Society's Women in Mathematics (WiM) Division proudly marks this 7th annual event, to be hosted by the **Mathematics Division at Stellenbosch University (SU)** and livestreamed from the Neelsie Cinema at SU.

Guest speaker **Jillian Reilly** will present the talk:

Permission to Stand Out

For so many women – particularly young female professionals – standing out requires so much permission. Female professionals can be exceptionally capable and productive, but they're not "supposed to" garner attention, assert authority or demand recognition.

They're groomed for quiet achievement. Not visible authority.

Which holds women back, keeps them small, burns them out.

In this talk I'll explore how women can avoid playing small – one self-permission at a time.

Using my trademark Ten Permissions, we'll look at how women can identify their ambitions and desires, embrace challenges and risks, and back their value and authority. How they can design unique career paths rather than defaulting to the narrow, conventional paths that often constrain their growth and impact.

In a world where women have long been told to "Lean In", I believe it's now time for women to give themselves permission to stand out. To back themselves as the stand out leaders for the 21st century.

ABOUT JILLIAN

Jillian Reilly is an author, speaker, and consultant with 30 years of experience in social, organisational, and personal change across Africa, Asia, and Central Europe.

She has written for the *Washington Post*, *Newsweek*, and the *LA Times*, and her book *Shame: Confessions of an Aid Worker in Africa* reflects on her early aid work. Her TEDx talk, *Vain Aid*, shares lessons from her journey in the aid sector and what it takes to drive change. Jill also co-hosted *Courageous Conversations*, a podcast featuring African activists and their changemaking stories. Her new book, *The Ten Permissions* (Sept 2025), offers a guide to navigating adult life in today's chaotic world.



VENUES

Attend at one of the following venues:

- Neelsie Cinema, Stellenbosch University
- University of the Witwatersrand
- University of KwaZulu-Natal
- Rhodes University
- Sol Plaatje University
- Online

Attendance is limited and on a first come, first served basis. Light snacks will be served at physical venues.

TRANSPORT TO ATTEND IN PERSON

Transport is being arranged:

- **to WITS** from UNISA and the University of Pretoria
- **to SU** from AIMS, the University of Cape Town, and the University of the Western Cape

Note: Booking transport secures your seat. Non-attendees may be held liable for the transport cost.

REGISTER by 30 April 2025:
<https://bit.ly/4jDKJe9>

