


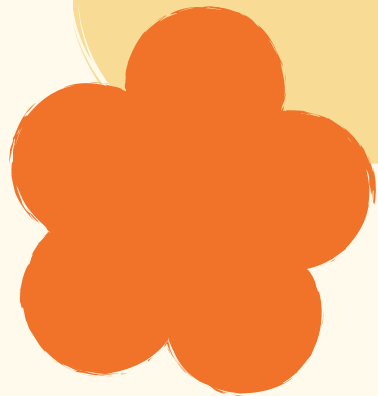
Matemáticas en español,  
¿por qué no?

Álvaro González Hernández





¿Por qué hay tan pocos matemáticos hispanohablantes entre los más reconocidos del mundo?



¿Cómo te sientes cuando te  
toca seguir una charla en un  
idioma que no dominas?

¿Cómo te sientes cuando te toca seguir una charla en un idioma que no dominas?



How do you feel when you attend a talk in a language you struggle with?



¿Cómo te sientes cuando te toca seguir una charla en un idioma que no dominas?

- ¿Confundido?



How do you feel when you attend a talk in a language you struggle with?

- Confused?



¿Cómo te sientes cuando te toca seguir una charla en un idioma que no dominas?

- ¿Confundido?
- ¿Excluído?



How do you feel when you attend a talk in a language you struggle with?

- Confused?
- Left out?



¿Cómo te sientes cuando te toca seguir una charla en un idioma que no dominas?

- ¿Confundido?
- ¿Excluído?
- ¿Enfadado?



How do you feel when you attend a talk in a language you struggle with?

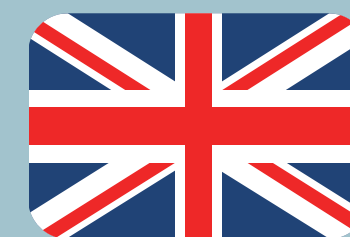
- Confused?
- Left out?
- Upset?



¿Por qué es el inglés el idioma fundamental en el que se hace la investigación matemática?



Why is English the primary language in which mathematical research is conducted?



# **Diversity and Decolonisation in Mathematics and its Applications**

Thursday 7th - Friday 8th May 2026

Warwick Mathematics Institute

University of Warwick

**Diversity and Decolonisation**  
**in Mathematics and its Applications**

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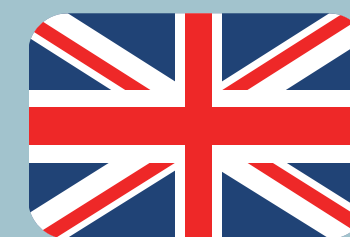
Warwick Mathematics Institute

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¿Por qué es el inglés el idioma fundamental en el que se hace la investigación matemática?



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A ver... esta charla debería ser en inglés porque estamos en Reino Unido


Well... this talk should be in English because we are in the UK



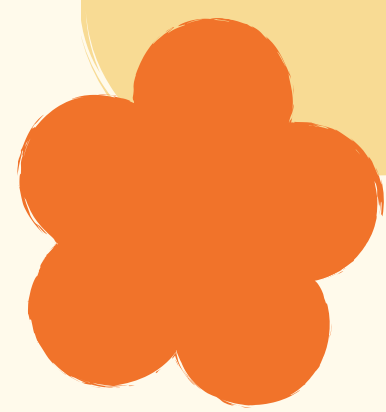
Si estuviéramos en un congreso en España o Latinoamérica, lo más probable es que esta charla fuese *in English!*



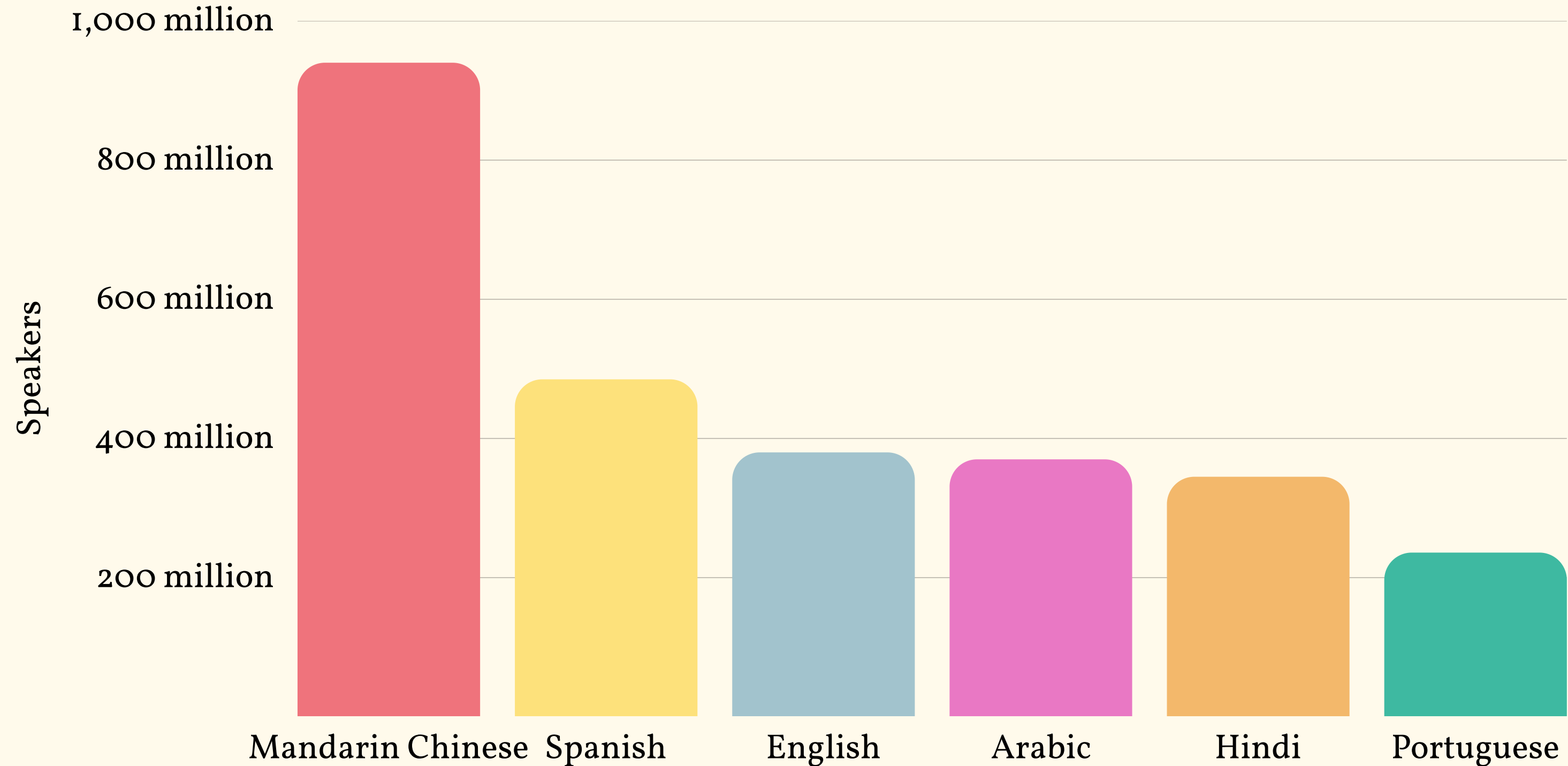
If we were at a conference in Spain or Latin America, this talk would likely be in English!




Why do so few Spanish-speaking  
mathematicians have gained  
worldwide recognition?




# Languages with the most native speakers



Source: Ethnologue language catalogue, 2020




Out of the 64 current Fields  
medallists, how many had Spanish as  
their native language?




None ☹️





Out of the 29 current winners of the Abel Prize, how many had Spanish as their native language?



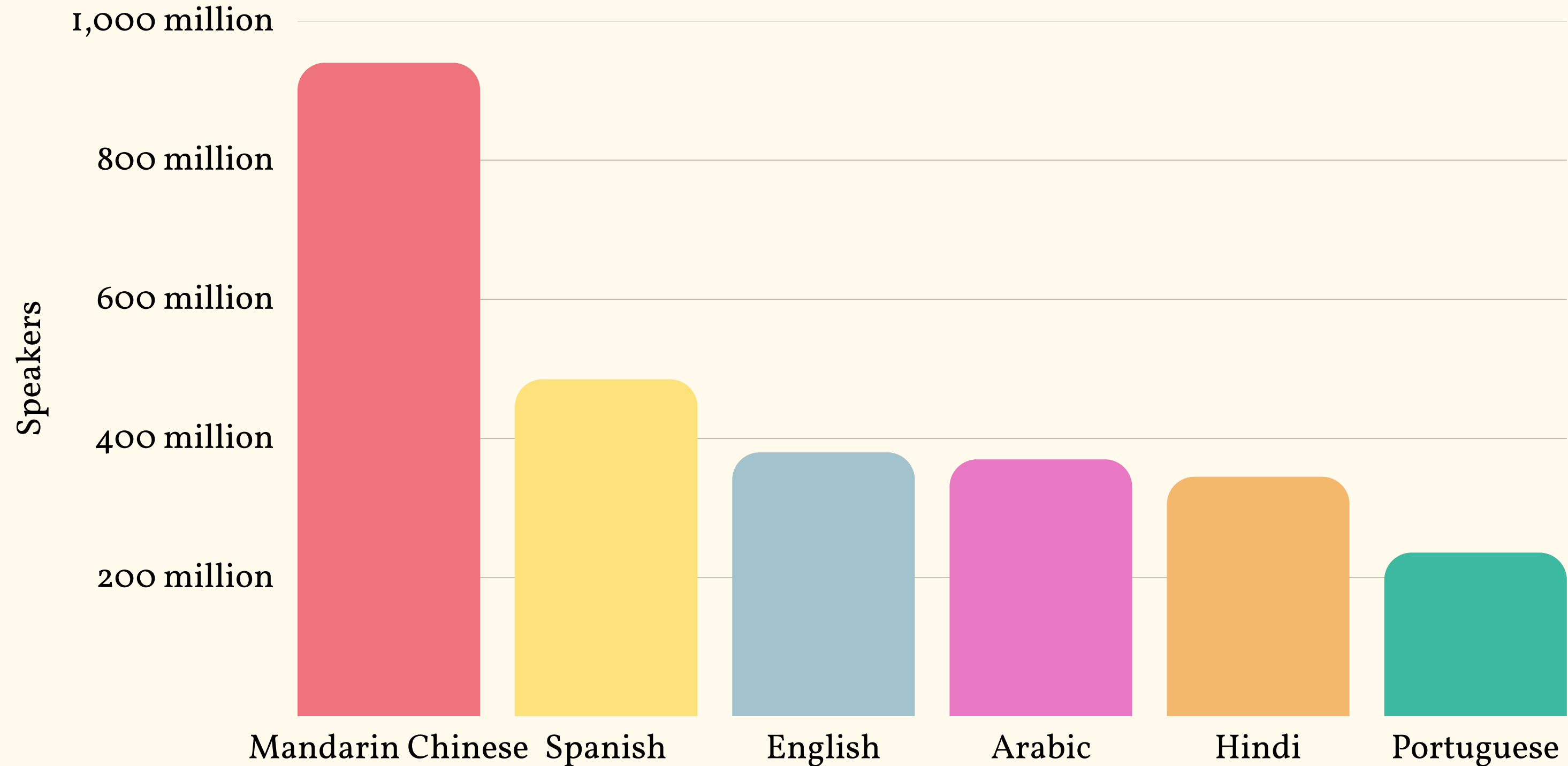
# Luis Caffarelli

**Abel Prize 2023**

“For his seminal contributions to regularity theory for nonlinear partial differential equations including free-boundary problems and the Monge–Ampère equation.”



# Languages with the most native speakers

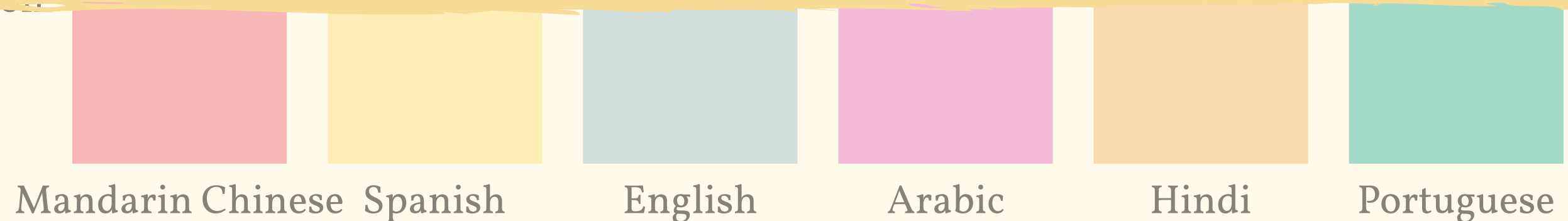


Source: Ethnologue language catalogue, 2020

# Languages with the most native speakers

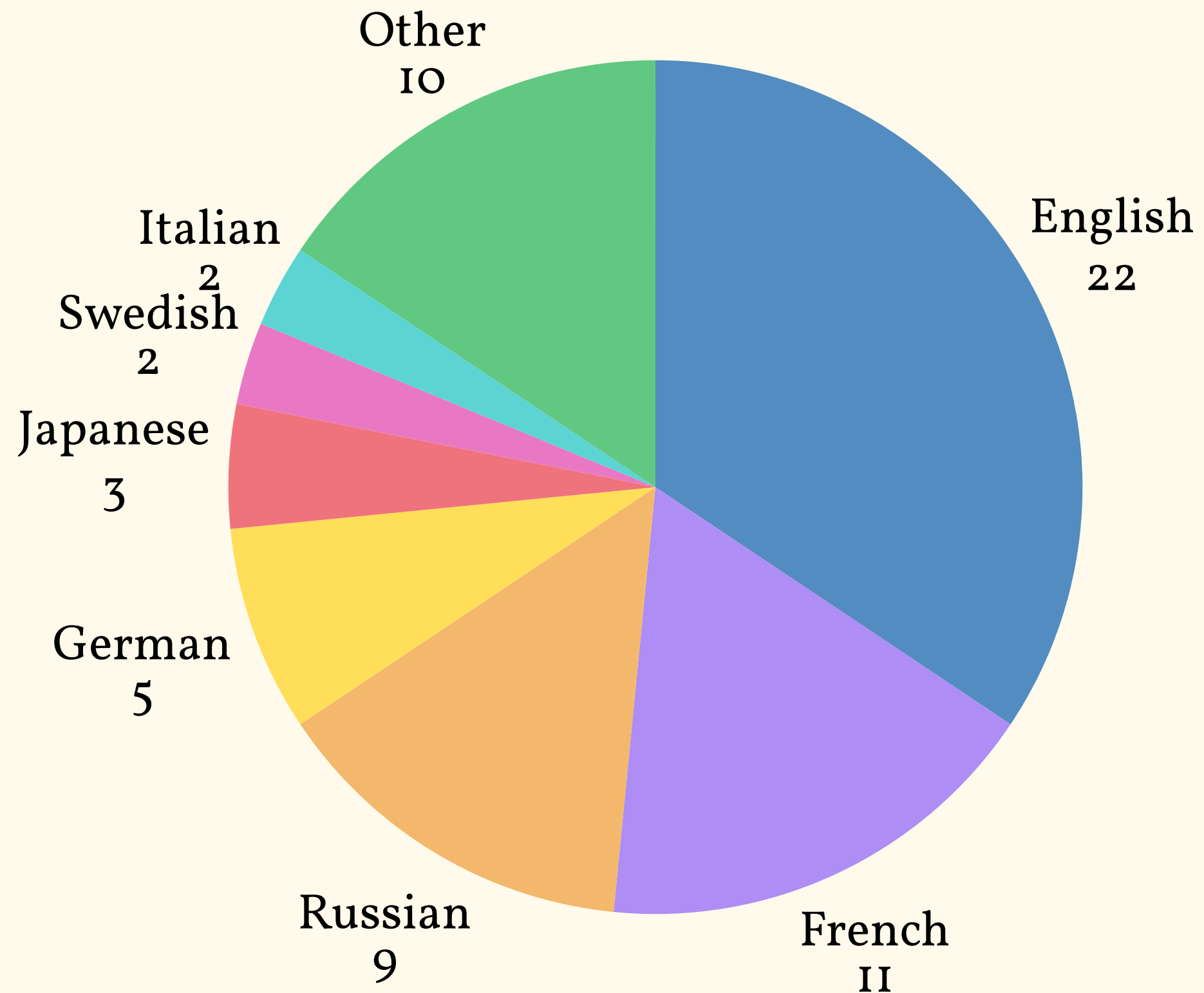
## *Chamberlain's Law*

If all things are equal what numbers  
do we expect to see?



Source: Ethnologue language catalogue, 2020

# Native language of the winners of the Fields medal





SCIENCE

# Non-native English speakers face significant disadvantages in scientific publishing

An Australian-American study has looked into the inequality faced by scientists whose mother tongue is not English. Not being native comes at a high cost for their careers, but also for innovation.

By Lison Segue

Published on August 16, 2023, at 5:31 am (Paris), updated on August 16, 2023, at 11:38 am ·  3 min read · [Lire en français](#)



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## **Inequality of Research Funding between Different Countries and Regions is a Serious Problem for Global Science**

[Ole H Petersen](#) <sup>1</sup>, 



# This issue is not specific to Spanish

为什么在国际数学界最具影响力的数学家中，讲中文的数学家如此之少？

अंतरराष्ट्रीय गणितीय समुदाय में सबसे प्रतिष्ठित गणितज्ञों में हिंदी भाषी गणितज्ञों की संख्या इतनी कम क्यों है?

لماذا يقلّ عدد الرياضيين الناطقين بالعربية بين أكثر الرياضيين اعترافاً على المستوى الدولي؟

Por que há tão poucos matemáticos lusófonos entre os mais reconhecidos internacionalmente?

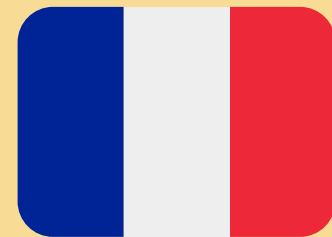
How can we bridge the gap to ensure equal opportunities for those whose primary language is not English?



# There are two main possibilities...

*Local-language academic tradition*

“French model”



French is still regularly used in conferences and papers as the language of communication.

*English is integrated as the research language*

“German model”



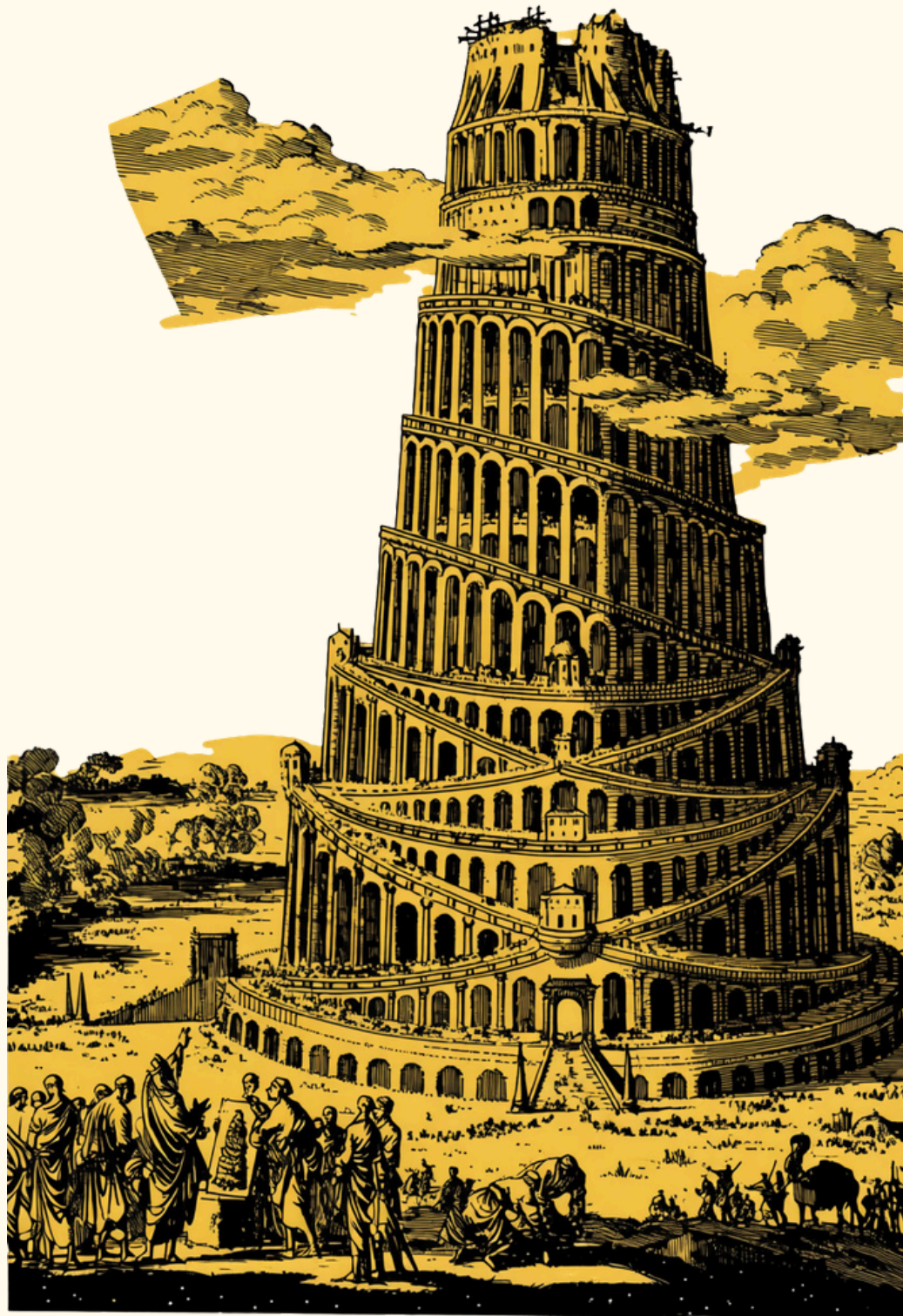
Most research-level mathematics and master's degree teaching is done in English.

... but there are many shades of grey in between.

Learning mathematics in  
one's mother tongue  
improves conceptual  
understanding

Research in mathematics  
conducted in multiple  
languages broadens  
perspectives



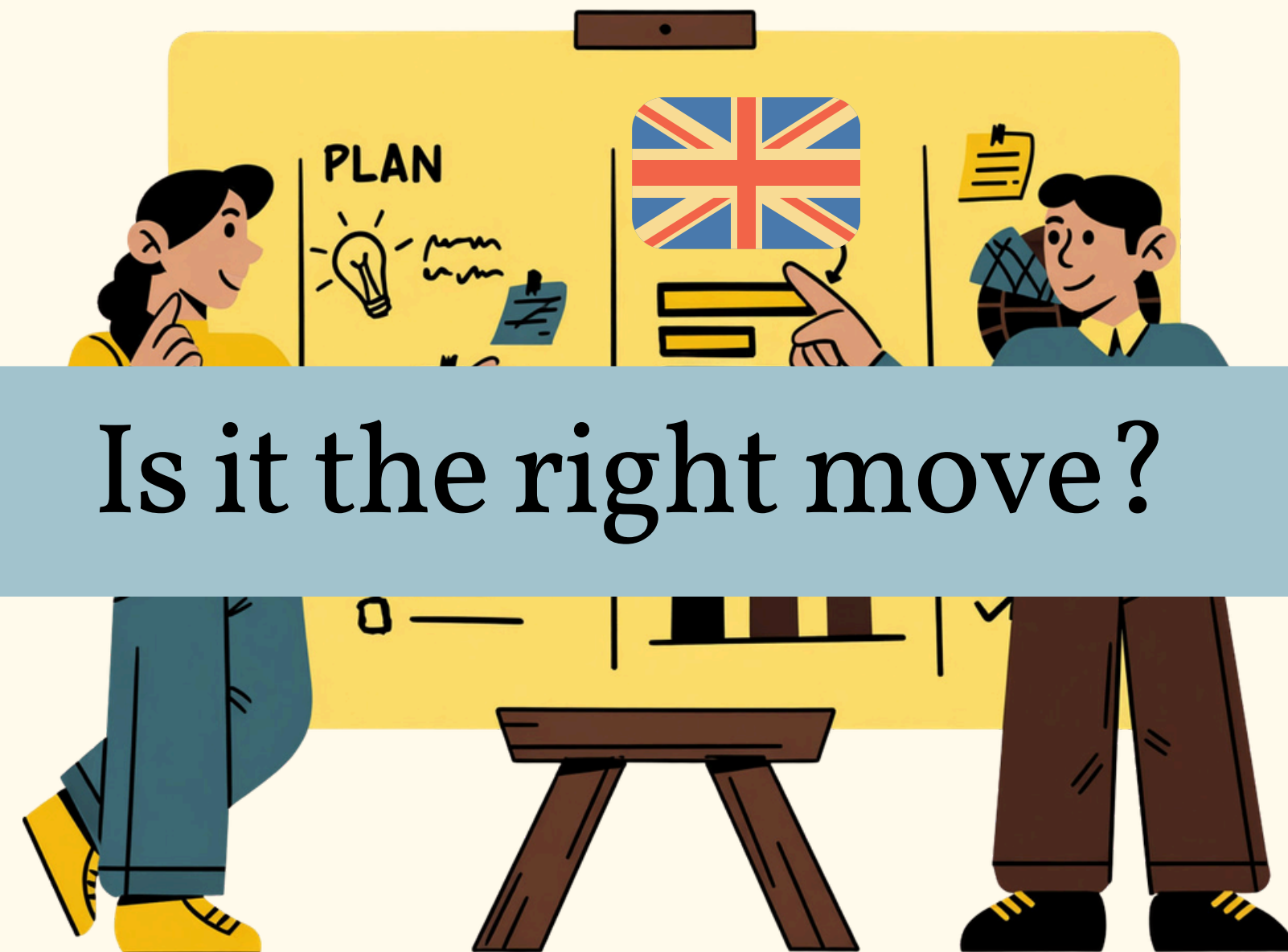


We need a common  
language to work  
together

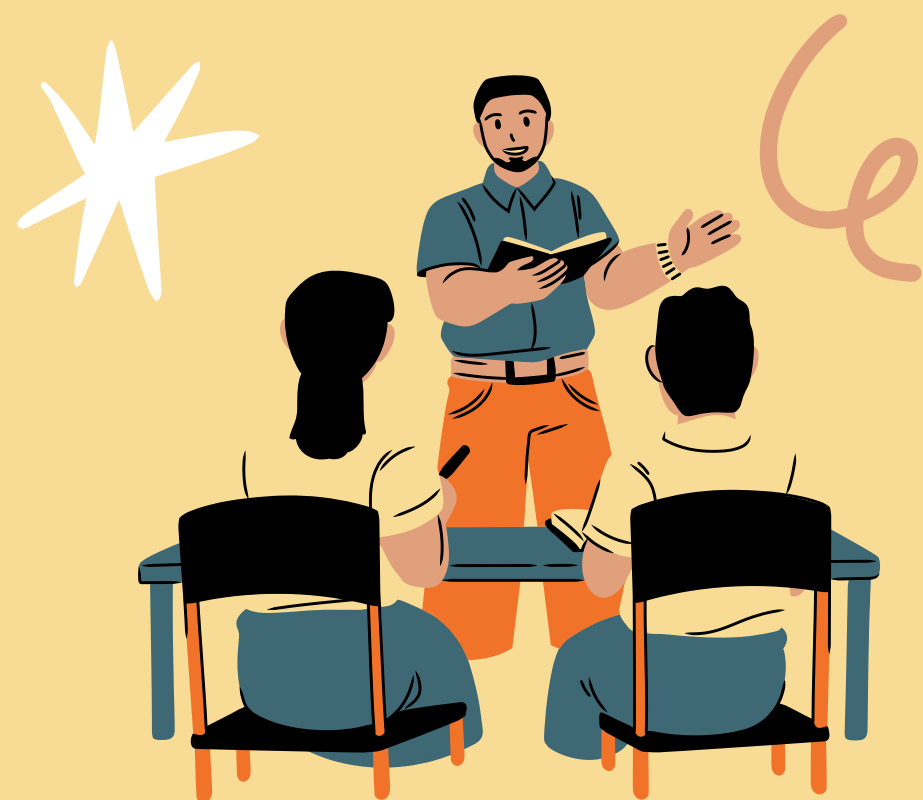
The general trend is that most countries are increasingly adopting English to communicate mathematics



The general trend is that most countries are increasingly adopting English to communicate mathematics



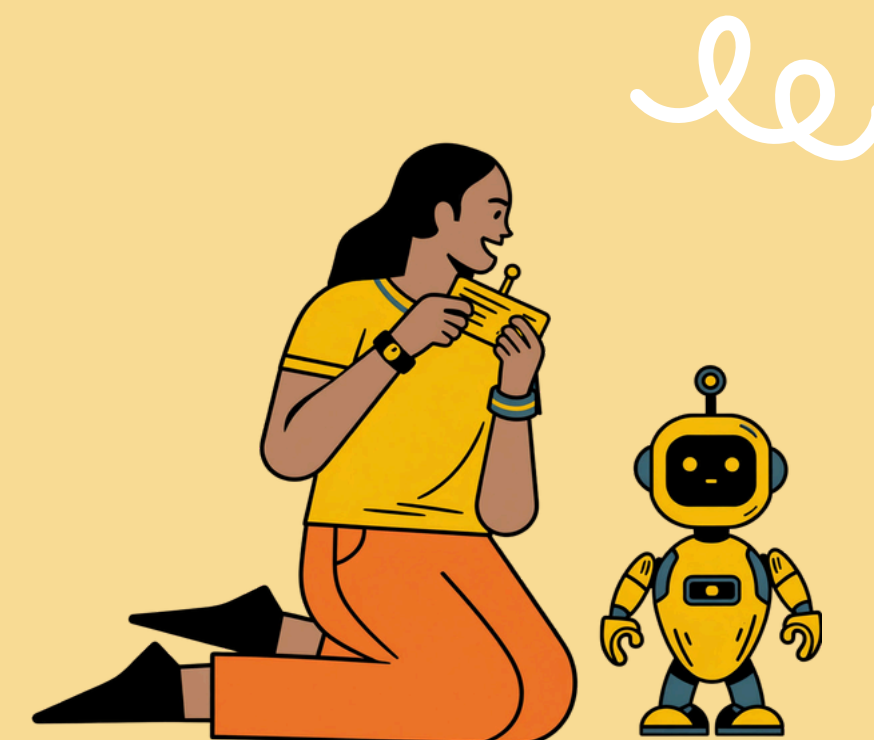
# This decision has multiple ramifications



How will this affect the landscape of the UK higher education system?



Will this make the mathematical community even less diverse?



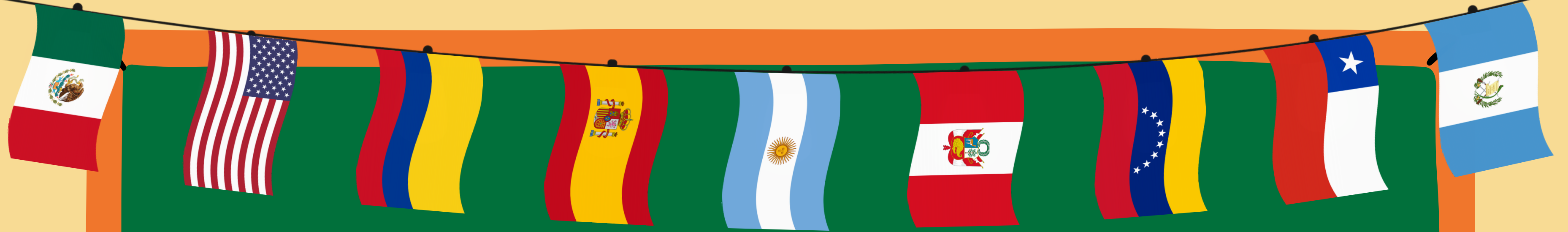
Will the AI revolution put those who do not have English as their mother tongue at a disadvantage?

*But the main thing I  
would like you to think  
about is:*



What can you do to  
support your colleagues  
and students who are not  
English native speakers?





*¡Muchas gracias!*