



# Math Education for America?: Policy Networks, Big Business, and Pedagogy Wars (Sociocultural, Political, and Historical Studies in Education)

By Mark Wolfmeyer



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*Math Education for America?* analyzes math education policy through the social network of individuals and private and public organizations that influence it in the United States. The effort to standardize a national mathematics curriculum for public schools in the U.S. culminated in 2010 when over 40 states adopted the *Common Core State Standards for Mathematics*. Rather than looking at the text of specific policy documents, this book complements existing critical reviews of the national math education curriculum by employing a unique social network analysis. Breaking new ground in detailing and theorizing the politics of math education, Wolfmeyer argues that the private interests of this network are closely tied to a web of interrelated developments: human capital education policy, debates over traditional and reform pedagogy, the assumed content knowledge deficit of math teachers, and the proliferation of profit-driven educational businesses. By establishing the interconnectedness of these interests with the national math education curriculum, he shows how the purported goals of math education reform are aligned with the prevailing political agendas of this social network rather than the national interest.



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### **Editorial Review**

#### **Review**

“... An extremely important book. The extensive network analysis linking the math pedagogies to particular institutional interests is valuable for understanding the complicated picture of who supports particular policy movements and why.”

**Kenneth Saltman, DePaul University, USA**

"Wolfmeyer takes on the tasks of identifying who is behind the move toward the nationalization of mathematics education as well as making transparent their vision of mathematics for the citizens of the United States. He argues that mathematics education is being skewed toward the interests of corporations by corporate proxies and academics. Wolfmeyer shows the intermingling of the corporate representatives, academics, and government agencies behind the nationalization of mathematics education through a critical analysis of the policy networks, or social network analysis (SNA)."

**Jeff Barger, NSTA Recommends**

#### **About the Author**

**Mark Wolfmeyer**, Assistant Professor, Kutztown University of Pennsylvania, USA

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