Investigating Discursive Interactions that are Connected to Students’ Development of Conceptual Understanding

Friday, December 4, 2015
12:30 – 1:30 pm
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Abstract: Nearly twenty years ago Cobb and Yackel (1996) advanced the emergent perspective as a way to describe how the learning of the individual relates to the mathematical progress of the classroom community. However, researchers still lack understanding about the details of the learning process as individuals participate in classrooms. To add to our understanding of this process, I have explored the nature of interactions connected to students’ learning in a classroom of prospective teachers. In this talk we will discuss several discursive interactions that advanced the mathematical agenda of the classroom and explore how these interactions may have oriented students towards particular features of the mathematics. Furthermore, we will explore how students’ prior knowledge and orientations may help explain the variation in individuals’ conceptions.