

The Sowder Mathematics and Science Education Research Seminar Series 2015-2016

The authority of ideas: Understanding influence during collaborative mathematical activity



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Seminar: 9:00-10:00 am

Q&A: 10:00-10:30 am

Natural Sciences Building
Auditorium (Room 1205)
UC San Diego

U.S. classrooms are becoming increasingly diverse, requiring new frameworks to better examine complex, inclusive learning environments. Particularly urgent is the need to understand student-led collaborative work, where consensus-building on reasonable approaches to solving problems may often emerge from the negotiation of authority rather than simply the exchange of mathematical ideas. In this seminar, I present and illustrate the use of a novel framework to explain why some students' ideas are taken up and not others, based on a contributor's position of authority, access to the conversational floor, and spatial privilege, as well as the perceived merit of contributions. The talk closes by grounding this body of work in a professional development study meant to support elementary teachers' capacity to create equitable and productive discussion-based mathematics classrooms.

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