

FACULTY OF EDUCATION, UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

LENT TERM 2011

CAMBRIDGE COLLOQUIA IN MATHEMATICS EDUCATION

Monday 24th January 2011 at 5.00 p.m., Room 207, Mary Allan Building, Hills Road

Dr Despina Potari, University of Athens, Greece

IDENTIFYING CRITICAL INCIDENTS: A CONTEXT FOR PROSPECTIVE MATHEMATICS TEACHERS' DEVELOPMENT

The seminar will be based on a study conducted by myself and three other colleagues, focusing on prospective mathematics teachers' reflections on teaching practice at the secondary level. The 22 participants were engaged in a number of activities such as observing mathematics classrooms, designing and teaching in the context of a one semester mathematics education course and were asked to identify critical classroom incidents. The results indicate a progression of prospective teachers' noticing of classroom practice and development of teaching awareness marked by shifts in analysing and interpreting classroom events.

Monday 7th March 2011 at 5.00 p.m., Room 207, Mary Allan Building, Hills Road

Dr Paul Andrews, University of Cambridge

CULTURALLY SENSITIVE RESEARCH: UNCOVERING THE UNIQUE FINNISH MATHEMATICS TEACHING SCRIPT

Analysing classroom data drawn from a culture different from one's own creates opportunities and constraints. The opportunities lie in the application of one set of cultural lenses to an unfamiliar set of classroom norms while the constraints lie in ensuring that a natural desire to evaluate is kept in check. Drawing on Susan Tillman's (2002, 2006) framework for culturally sensitive research, I shall present my interpretation of a series of videotaped lessons, taught by Finnish teachers defined locally as effective, to students in the age range 10-14. In so doing I hope to cast light on the Finnish PISA success phenomenon.

Tea and coffee will be available before each meeting. All are very welcome.

For further other information, contact Tim Rowland at tr202@cam.ac.uk