FACULTY OF EDUCATION, UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

MICHAELMAS TERM 2010

CAMBRIDGE COLLOQUIA IN MATHEMATICS EDUCATION

Monday 1st November 2010 at 5.00 p.m., Room 205, Mary Allan Building, Hills Road

Jeremy Hodgen, Dietmar Küchemann & Margaret Brown, King's College London

CHALLENGES IN IMPLEMENTING FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT IN SECONDARY MATHEMATICS: LESSONS FROM THE ICCAMS PROJECT

Considerable claims have been made for the potential of formative assessment to improve learning. Over the past decade, formative assessment has been phenomenally "successful" with both policy-makers and the teaching profession, but evidence suggests that teachers and schools have considerable difficulties in implementing the approach, particularly in mathematics. Drawing on data from the Increasing Competence and Confidence in Algebra and Multiplicative Structures (ICCAMS) project, we will explore the difficulties and obstacles involved in implementing formative assessment. Finally, we will discuss ways in which such difficulties can be overcome.

Monday 22nd November 2010 at 5.00 p.m., Room 205, Mary Allan Building, Hills Road

Constantinos Xenofontos, University of Cambridge

PROSPECTIVE ELEMENTARY TEACHERS' BELIEFS ABOUT MATHEMATICAL PROBLEM SOLVING: COMPARISONS BETWEEN CYPRUS AND ENGLAND

Recent comparative studies in mathematics education indicate that teachers' beliefs about teaching and learning are culturally located. In addition, the notion of mathematical problem solving has evolved and is perceived differently in different educational systems around the world. In this talk, I present some findings from my ongoing PhD project, which investigates the cultural similarities and differences of prospective elementary teachers' beliefs related to mathematical problem solving in Cyprus and England. In particular, here, participants' beliefs about the nature of mathematical problems, about the nature of problem solving, and about explicit pedagogic practice are presented..

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

For directions to the Mary Allan Building and any other information, contact Tim Rowland at tr202@cam.ac.uk