



General Interest Seminar

Title: The Mathematical Conceptions of Prospective Teachers in Ireland

Speaker: Catherine Paolucci

Date: Tue 22nd April 2008 at 3:00PM

Location: Mathematical Sciences Seminar Room

Abstract: This talk will present the results of a study which surveyed 210 Postgraduate Diploma in Education students, from five universities in Ireland. The survey was conducted to construct a profile of these prospective teachers' conceptions about the nature of mathematics. Previous research has established strong links between mathematics teachers' conceptions of the nature of mathematics and their classroom practice. As education officials in Ireland focus on reforming mathematics education at the Leaving Certificate level, it is essential to consider the conceptions of those who will potentially enter the field as second-level mathematics teachers. In a discussion of the results, I will address these conceptions, along with their implications for the preparation of second-level mathematics teachers in Ireland.