

The Sowder Mathematics & Science Education Research Seminar Series 2022



Yvette
Solomon

Professor of Education
Manchester
Metropolitan University

Monday, 2/7/2022
10 am - 11 am
Zoom link:

<https://ucsd.zoom.us/j/92663427907>

Meeting ID:
926 6342 7907

Sponsored by the joint PhD program in Mathematics and Science Education (MSed) at the University of California San Diego and San Diego State University, as well as a charitable gift from Judy and Larry Sowder.

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Understanding and Repairing Disengagement from Mathematics: Why Devolved Authority Matters

Abstract: In this talk I bring together my earlier work with undergraduate mathematics students who are highly successful at school, with more recent research on a very different (and large) cohort of students: those who fail to gain an acceptable pass grade in national examinations in England at age 16. It may seem that these students have little in common, but close inspection shows that they often have similar relationships to mathematics which have their roots in traditional practices of mathematics teaching. Addressing disengagement in both groups is a question of establishing devolved authority in school mathematics; I will argue that this is possible for all students and is the basis of a much-needed equity in a subject which frequently denies student agency.

Biography: I joined Manchester Metropolitan University in 2009 from Lancaster University, where I was Reader in Educational Research. I research in the area of mathematics education.

I gained my PhD in Educational Research at Lancaster in 1986, leading to my first book, *The Practice of Mathematics* (1989). This was the beginning of a long-standing research career in mathematics education - my book *Mathematical Literacy*, published in 2008, brings together a number of themes in this research, including classroom interaction, the language of mathematics, and the development of learner identities from primary to undergraduate years.

Profile: <https://www.mmu.ac.uk/stepd/staff/profile/index.php?id=1308>



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