

CERME 9: Working Group 17

Theoretical perspectives and approaches in mathematics education research

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Scope and focus of the Working Group

Theory is a crucial ingredient in any research study in mathematics education. The importance of theoretical frameworks has led many researchers and research groups to develop theories that suit their purposes. This has not only led to a diversity of theories, but also to a diversity of ideas about what a theory is and the concomitant problem of how theories are built. Working Group 17 explores ways of handling theory in order to better grasp the complexity of learning and teaching processes. In recent CERMEs a focus of our working group has centred on understanding how theories can be connected in a successful manner while respecting their underlying assumptions, which we call ‘networking theories’. We wish to continue this focus on networking theories at CERME 9 but we also want to be open to new views related to theoretical frameworks; for this reason the last bullet point below, ‘other’, is important. Theories can be an intimidating subject and we will work to ensure that our working group is a place where novice and experienced researchers can work together in an atmosphere of constructive criticism and support.

Call for papers and poster proposals

We welcome papers (10 pages maximum) and poster proposals (2 pages) on issues concerned with one or more of the bullet points below, though any paper/poster of relevance to the overall focus of the group will also be considered. In order to ensure a concrete basis to the discussion of abstract issues, we particularly welcome papers presenting concrete case studies.

- The need to go beyond a specific theory when researching a phenomena
- Benefits and/or strategies and/or difficulties in connecting theories
- Conditions for a productive dialogue between theorists
- Difficulties and strategies when gathering results from different frameworks
- Linking theoretical and methodological approaches
- The epistemological dimension in theories
- Steps towards (local/global) theoretical convergence (in mathematics education research)
- Other – this open category should be made specific in one short sentence

Papers and poster proposals should use the CERME word template, and conform to the guidelines at <http://www.cerme9.org/guidelines/guidelines-for-authors/>. To submit it, you need to email your paper as a WORD document to j.d.monaghan@education.leeds.ac.uk AND at the same time to the conference secretariat at submission@cerme9.org. If possible please also send a pdf version in addition to the WORD document.

Reviews and decisions

Each paper will be peer-reviewed by two persons from among those who submit papers to this Thematic Working Group. Please expect to be asked to review up to three papers yourself. It may be necessary for you to revise your paper before final acceptance. The group leaders will decide about the acceptance of posters.

Important dates

September 15, 2014: Deadline for submission of papers
October 1, 2014: Deadline for submission of poster proposals
November 25, 2014: Deadline for reviewers to submit their reviews
December 5, 2014: Decisions about paper or poster acceptance
December 20, 2014: Reduced fee registration deadline
January 10, 2015: Deadline for revisions of papers
January 20, 2015: Papers for presentation at the congress available on the CERME website