

## **Monday seminar in mathematics and mathematics education at UiA**

Birgit Pepin (Trondheim):

"Maths can be tiring, but it can provide opportunities":  
a comparative study of Norwegian and English secondary students' attitude  
toward mathematics

Campus Gimlemoen, Kristiansand, 1 November 2010, 14.15-15.30, J2-009

### **Abstract:**

This presentation reports on a comparative study of English and Norwegian pupils' attitude toward mathematics, using a mainly qualitative questionnaires to develop a deeper understanding of the factors that may shape and influence pupil attitude. Albeit based on a small statistical sample, in both countries students' attitudes has very similar trends between grades 7/8 and 10/11. However, pupils' qualitative comments showed that the most influential factors were due to pupils' experiences in their respective mathematics classrooms and larger school environments. It is argued that by comparing it was possible to deepen our understanding of pupil attitude as a socio-cultural construct, and as a 'lived' construct influenced by the meanings that are made in different contexts.