

Barbara Jaworski
Loughborough University, UK
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Teaching Better Mathematics in the University

As most people in Mathematics at Agder will already know, I have a deep commitment to developing mathematics teaching at all levels. My new job in England is within a Mathematics Education Centre in a School of Mathematics (in a Faculty of Science). I am working with colleagues who are mathematicians and/or mathematics educators.

Mathematicians do research in mathematics; mathematics educators do research in mathematics education. We all teach mathematics at some level: either to mathematics students, or to engineering students. We are not involved in teacher education.

I was appointed to bring in a pedagogic focus and a related research focus. I am therefore interested in how mathematics is taught within the university and how those teaching mathematics think about developing teaching for the improved learning of students. This is a very similar focus to that within TBM at Agder, but with a dimension of university learning and teaching.

In this talk, I will say a little about how mathematics teaching is organised at my new university and what are some of the questions to be addressed. I will then raise issues for research and invite colleagues at Agder to discuss with me what this could mean, perhaps, for an extension of TBM to university teaching and learning of mathematics.