You are cordially invited to attend the

*MSU Mathematics Education Colloquium*

Wednesday, April 4, 2012

3:30 - 5:00 p.m.

252 Erickson Hall - Michigan State University

Paola Valero

Aalborg University



Researching the Political in Mathematics Education

Rochelle Gutierrez in a recent number of *Journal of Research in Mathematics Education* formulated the thesis that, in the similar way that the 1990's there was a social turn in mathematics education —as argued by Steve Lerman—, the "political turn" had been taking place in the first decade of the 2000's. Still, what may be called sociopolitical research in mathematics education is far from being spread as a way of identifying and researching mathematics education. In my recent research I have been doing "research on research". This emerges from the ground assumption that looking at mathematics education research as a field of study is important in understanding how the field contributes to the generation of systems of reason about what is and should be the objects of the field. I illustrate the significance of this approach by examining one example, namely the construction of categories to study the disadvantaged and excluded child in mathematics. I intend to show how research in mathematics is what in Foucaultian terms is called a technology of governmentalization that effects power through the creation of particular subjectivities in mathematics classrooms.

Paola Valero is Professor at the Department of Education, Learning and Philosophy, at Aalborg University, Denmark. She is the leader of the Science and Mathematics Education Research Group and director of the Doctoral Program Technology and Science: Education and Philosophy. Her research interests include the socio-political dimensions of mathematics education at all levels, in particular innovation and change processes; multiculturalism and diversity, and inclusion/exclusion processes. She is interested in developing theoretical understandings of mathematics education as a political practice.

*The Program in Mathematics Education sponsors this event.*