Productive Struggle and its Role in Teaching and Learning Mathematics

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Abstract: In this talk, I share results of my current research that examines classroom interactions and documents the kinds of students’ struggles that occur as students engage in mathematical tasks and the kinds of guidance and structure teachers provide that either facilitate or undermine the productive effects of students’ struggle. Research on the role of struggle in teaching and learning has implications in curriculum design, implementation, and professional development.

I will also discuss ongoing and proposed research being conducted with the Mathworks programs including Summer Camps, Curriculum Projects, and Teacher Training, together with opportunities for research that may be of interest to our doctoral students.

Hiroko Warshauer begins her 35th year on the mathematics faculty at Texas State University. She received her Ph.D. in mathematics education from The University of Texas at Austin, her M.A. in mathematics from Louisiana State University, and her B.A. in mathematics from The University of Chicago.