

# Bureau of Educational Research

2006-2007 Seminar Series

Presents

## Life in High School Algebra II Class

Thursday, April 5, 2007      12pm-1:00pm, Rm 242 Education

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Mathematics teaching and learning are realized within a historical system that comprises norms regarding school participants' behavior, school and classroom organization and the larger socio-cultural conditions in which schools reside.

As an institutional environment, schools function according to rules and procedures that give meaning to school participants' experiences. These routines and procedures (e.g., reciting the pledge of allegiance, taking attendance, assigning detention, grading homework) are easily documented, but they are merely superficial aspects of classroom life.

Mathematics lessons are shaped by institutional imperatives and they carry social messages about values, power and authority. With this view in mind,

### ‡“What IS algebra II?”

‡How does the social construction of an instantiation of algebra II constitute and belie the cultural and institutional patterns of schooling?

‡What does algebra II mean to high school students?

‡What sense do they make of their experiences in math class?

‡What is the significance of their experiences?

Professor Crockett's talk will focus on the perspectives that inform the questions, data collection, and some preliminary analysis.

