CCSU
DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES

COLLOQUIUM

Friday, April 19
3:00 – 4:00 PM
Maria Sanford, Room 101

VARIATION THEORY IN MATHEMATICS LEARNING: WHAT DOES IT OFFER?

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(Joint work with JILLIAN CAVANNA, University of Hartford, and MEGAN STAPLES, UCONN)

Abstract: Variation theory, as described by Ference Marton, is a learning theory that defines the necessary conditions for learning, with the aim of enabling the learner to engage in novel situations in powerful ways. When applied to the learning of mathematics, variation theory can serve as a guide for writing lecture examples, designing learning activities, and constructing writing prompts. In this presentation, we will share our work of utilizing variation theory in mathematics task design and task analysis. Participants will experience tasks designed using variation theory and consider ways of incorporating variation into their courses to support student learning.