

WORKING WITH TRANSCRIPTS

Co-ordinator: Janet Ainley

As researchers in mathematics education, many of us make extensive use of transcripts, made from audio or video recordings of interviews, discussions and classroom interactions. We analyse these in many ways, to look at both the content and the social organisation of dialogue. We use them for many purposes, and yet we generally use a very small range of ways of presenting transcripts to serve all of these needs.

This Working session will be based around the exploration of some different styles of presenting transcripts, and how these might support different kinds of analysis and interpretation. I hope that we shall get into discussion of some important research issues, such as the notion of the 'truth' of a transcript, or whether more (detail) is necessarily better. However, the primary purpose of the session is to do some work together, and this will be organised as follows.

In the first session, I shall introduce some models for presenting transcripts, and invite any participants who are familiar with other models to add to these. Then we shall work in small groups, each taking a section of dialogue from an existing transcript, or better still from an audio tape, and transcribing this in different ways.

At some point in the second session, we shall come back together and invite groups to present what they have done, and their views about what may be gained or lost in each of the styles. I am confident that this will lead us into valuable discussion of the sorts of general issues indicated earlier.

If you wish to participate in this working session you are encouraged to bring along your own data to work on. There will also be some examples of different kinds of dialogue provided. If you have a small audio recorder which could be used for the working session, please bring this as well.