

ZMATH 2014c.00326

Matos, João Filipe

Trends and opportunities for research methodologies within the PME community.

Lindmeier, Anke M. (ed.) et al., Proceedings of the 37th conference of the International Group for the Psychology of Mathematics Education “Mathematics learning across the life span”, PME 37, Kiel, Germany, July 28–August 2, 2013. Vol. 1. Kiel: IPN–Leibniz Institute for Science and Mathematics Education at the University of Kiel (ISBN 978-3-89088-287-1). 51-66 (2013).

Summary: This paper discusses the issue of the relations between the nature of research problems in mathematics education and the politics of representation of the observed phenomena. Using quasi-meta-analysis this study aims to identify the relationships between the ways problems are formulated in several domains of mathematics education research and the options and decisions made regarding the research methodologies used. Results from the analysis of PME 36 conference papers show that the majority of studies are descriptive, rely on qualitative data analysis, include less than 30 participants and a quarter of them are declared by authors as case studies. Implications are drawn both for the discussion of what counts as evidence in research in mathematics education and the ways it is produced. Additionally, grounded questions emerge that should be considered by the PME community.

Classification: D20

Keywords: research methodologies; PME community; nature of research problems; politics of representations; research trends