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Attitudes, Beliefs, Motivation and Identity in Mathematics Education

An Overview of the Field and Future
Directions

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ISSN 2366-5947
ICME-13 Topical Surveys
ISBN 978-3-319-32810-2
DOI 10.1007/978-3-319-32811-9

ISSN 2366-5955 (electronic)
ISBN 978-3-319-32811-9 (eBook)

Library of Congress Control Number: 2016936641

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Printed on acid-free paper

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Abstract

Research on mathematics-related affect is varied in theories and concepts. In this survey we record the state of the art in this research through short sections from leading experts in different areas. We describe the historical development of the concept of attitude and different ways it is defined. Research on student self-efficacy beliefs in mathematics is summarized. There is reflection on the dialectic relationship between teacher beliefs and practice as well as on how their beliefs change. One section records the emerging research on student and teacher mathematical identities over the last two decades. Finally, mathematical motivation is explored from the perspectives of engagement structures, social behaviors, and the relationship between individual factors and social norms.

Keywords Attitude • Self-efficacy • Beliefs • Identity • Motivation