

Barbara Jaworski (1944 – 2025) in memoriam

Former president of ERME, Barbara Jaworski, passed away after a short illness on 10 December 2025.

Barbara had a long career as a researcher in Mathematics Education and was very well known and highly respected internationally. She started as a teacher of mathematics (and Physics and Computer Science) on secondary level before joining the Open University (UK) in 1984. Here she started to do research on investigative teaching in secondary mathematics classrooms, which led to a PhD at the Open University in 1991: *Interpretations of a Constructivist Philosophy in Mathematics Teaching*.

After a few years as a Lecturer at the University of Birmingham, Barbara spent 10 years at the University of Oxford, first as a Lecturer and later as a Reader, focusing on secondary teacher education in PGCE mathematics and research in mathematics teaching and its development, particularly in collaboration with teachers doing research in classrooms. In 2003 Barbara moved to Norway to take up a position as Professor at the University of Agder. Here she was instrumental in developing a PhD programme in Mathematics Education, which has turned out to be very successful and attracted many students, both from Norway and elsewhere. While at Agder, Barbara led two large research projects, in collaboration with schools and also with other universities in Norway. In these projects, as well as in earlier projects, the idea of inquiry based teaching has been central, leading to the concept *communities of inquiry*.

In 2007 Barbara moved back to the UK as a Professor at Loughborough University, shifting her research interests from mathematics at school level to mathematics at higher education, maintaining her interest in inquiry based teaching, e.g., for mathematics in engineering education in the project *Engineering Students Understanding Mathematics*. During her time at Loughborough, Barbara kept the contact with the University of Agder as a Guest Professor, and she participated in several projects there. In 2012 she was awarded an honorary doctorate at the University of Agder.

Barbara was President of ERME in the period 2005-2009 (member of the Board from 2003), and she was Chair of the IPC for CERME4 in 2005. She was active in ERME already from its beginning and was a member of the IPC both at CERME1 in 1998, at CERME2 in 2001, and at CERME3 in 2003. At CERME3 she also chaired the plenary panel on *The Relationship of Theory and Practice in Mathematics Education*.

Her international engagement went beyond ERME as she was President of the International Group for the Psychology of Mathematics Education (PME) from 2013 to 2016 and Editor in Chief of *Journal of Mathematics Teacher Education* from 2002 to 2007.

Barbara was a true representative of the ERME spirit of *communication, cooperation and collaboration*, and she will be greatly missed by a large number of friends and colleagues all over the world.

Trondheim, 12.01.2026

Frode Rønning
President of ERME