All STEM Lectures will take place at:
Halligan Hall
Rm 102
161 College Ave
Medford Campus

STEM Lectures are from 3:00-4:00PM

Margaret Honey
May 16, 2016

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Title: Way-Finding in Youth Maker Projects

Abstract: Many educators share the goal of helping young people learn to be flexible and adaptive thinkers. These qualities, sometimes called adaptive expertise, are typically theorized as an individual achievement - a set of abilities that arise when people possess the right kinds of knowledge about the object of study. In this talk, I describe youth problem solving in informal and loosely constrained “maker” projects. I argue that, if we want to understand flexibility and adaptations in such contexts, we need a distributed account of adaptive expertise that situates expertise within a network of available resources. The talk will present qualitative data from a study of youth making, as well as a work-in-progress formulation of distributed adaptive expertise.

Bio: Lee Martin is an associate professor in the School of Education at the University of California, Davis. His research looks across in-school and out-of-school settings to investigate the varied ways that people assemble social, material, and intellectual resources to help them to meet their goals. He studies participation in making and the maker movement as activities that may help youth become more flexible and adaptive in their thinking and problem solving. As part of this research, he examines the development of identity and agency in connection to STEM fields. His research group, Beta Lab, has recently built a mobile maker studio to facilitate their work in schools and community centers. They also work to create new thinking tools to foster noticing, reflection, ideation, and collaboration.

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