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0521442230 - Metaphysical Myths, Mathematical Practice: The Ontology and Epistemology of the Exact Sciences

Jody Azzouni

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This original and exciting study offers a completely new perspective on the philosophy of mathematics. Most philosophers of mathematics try to show either that the sort of knowledge mathematicians have is similar to the sort of knowledge specialists in the empirical sciences have or that the kind of knowledge mathematicians have, although apparently about objects such as numbers, sets, and so on, isn't really about those sorts of things at all.

Jody Azzouni argues that mathematical knowledge really is a special kind of knowledge that must be gathered in its own unique way. He analyzes the linguistic pitfalls and misperceptions philosophers in this field are often prone to, and explores the misapplications of epistemic principles from the empirical sciences to the exact sciences. What emerges is a picture of mathematics sensitive to both mathematical practice and to the ontological and epistemological issues that concern philosophers.

The book will be of special interest to philosophers of science, mathematics, logic, and language. It should also interest mathematicians themselves.

“This is an account that rings true, and which philosophers will have to come to grips with because of the sure-footed basis that it has in its description of mathematical theory and practice.”

– Arnold Koslow

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JODY AZZOUNI
Tufts University



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For those who are gone:

N. A. J. V. E. V.

O. A. B. D. D. A.

E. R. M. F. J. B.

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