

ABSTRACTION RECONCEPTUALIZED

JAMES STUDD

Abstract. Neologicists have sought to ground mathematical knowledge in abstraction. This account faces two obstinate problems: the bad company problem of incompatible abstractions, and the problem of extending abstraction to branches of mathematics other than arithmetic. This paper argues that these problems are due to the 'static' character of abstraction on the neologist account and offers a novel 'dynamic' account that provides satisfying solutions to both.