

FORMALIZATION IS IDEALIZATION

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When we discuss philosophy of mathematics in a formal setting, we do not talk about ordinary mathematical practice (which is a human endeavour), but about a formal representation of this practice. I shall argue that this formal representation is an idealization and raise the question whether philosophy of mathematics should be about this idealized form of mathematical practice or rather about actual mathematical practice. I shall discuss a number of methodological difficulties of a practice-based philosophy of mathematics.