SETS, SUPERSETS AND CLOSURE

TOBY MEADOWS

Abstract. In the philosophy of set theory, there is often a reticence to take large collections like the set of all sets seriously as collections over which we may quantify. They are relegated to the proper-class or plurality corner as either metalinguistic gloss or ontological oddity. In this paper, I would like to take large collections seriously as set-like objects over which we may quantify and which satisfy axioms very like the ones we expect of ordinary sets. I'll sketch a way in which we might formalise this intuition and I'll call theories that do this, superset theories. I'll then argue that there are good reasons why mathematicians should not be interested in such theories, but philosophers, on the other hand, should be.

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