DAVID DeVIDI, University of Waterloo

Pluralisms, Mathematical and Logical

Many reasons have been advanced for being a pluralist about logic, i.e., for holding that more than one system of logic is correct, and some of these have something to do with mathematics. For instance, it is sometimes claimed that the logic of natural language must be non-classical, due to the vagueness of the predicates involved, while classical logic is correct for mathematical reasoning. On the other hand, while it is common enough to find people willing to advocate pluralism about mathematics in the pub, it is harder to find ones who will do so in print. The reason is that it is simply harder to make sense of the claim that more than one mathematics is correct. This talk will describe what I take to be the best bets for making good the claims of mathematical pluralism. This will involve closer investigation of the relationship between mathematical and logical pluralism, and of whether a view can be genuinely pluralist if one holds that there are two correct systems, but one is a subsystem of the other.