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"Epistemic Cultures" and the History of Mathematics

The sociologist Karin Knorr Cetina uses the term "epistemic cultures" for "those amalgams of arrangements and mechanisms ... which, in a given field, make up how we know what we know"; her primary focus is the laboratories of physical science. A recent workshop at the University of Toronto, organized by Josipa Petrunic, sought to explore the question to what extent (mutatis mutandis) such "mechanisms of knowledge construction" can be identified in mathematics and what historiographical significance they may have. I shall try to set out some of the attendant issues by sketching the history of changes in mathematical epistemology.