

Jarmo Pulkkinen, *The Threat of Logical Mathematism. A Study on the Critique of Mathematical Logic in Germany at the Turn of the 20th Century*, Frankfurt/Berlin/Bern/New York/Paris/Wien, Peter Lang, 1994, 187 pp.

Reviewed by

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From the subtitle of Pulkkinen's book we might expect to learn only about the fortunes of mathematical logic in the German academy at the turn of the century. However, a cursory glance at its contents reveals that only one chapter out of eight (Chapt. 5) is devoted to its public reception. The remaining chapters treat the history of logic in Germany between 1830 and 1920 and discuss the relationships logic was seen to bear not just to mathematics but also to such various disciplines as psychology and linguistics. The investigation of those relationships is a prerequisite to the main issue because a good number of arguments against the mathematization of logic were seen to depend on psychological or linguistic considerations. This becomes particularly evident in the last three chapters, which examine the criticisms of mathematical logic advanced by Fritz Mauthner, Heinrich Rickert and Theodor Ziehen.

The author traverses the history and philosophy of logic, psychology, and linguistics and in doing so pays close attention to matters epistemological and ontological. One might therefore be tempted to compare the treatment Pulkkinen offers, say of the history of psychology or linguistics, with other discussions of them in the literature and then find the present work decidedly scanty. Any such judgment would be unfair though because Pulkkinen's interest lies principally in the history