

Foreword

In 2003, the Swiss National Science Foundation decided to give its support to a research programme devoted to logicism at the Institute for Logic of the University of Neuchâtel. Continuing Neuchâtel's tradition in the study of Polish logic, the aim of that project was the construction of Peano-Dedekind arithmetic within the framework of S. Leśniewski's logic. After the publication of the technical and first philosophical results of this programme¹, it was time to organise an international conference about logicism and its future. The conference held at the University of Neuchâtel in April 2005 under the title "Contemporary Perspectives on Logicism" and was associated with the symposium "Constructivism" organised by the Swiss Society for Logic and Philosophy of Science. The speakers of both events were: Jean-Yves Béziau (Neuchâtel University), Laura Crosilla (University of Florence), Dirk van Dalen (Utrecht University), Wolfgang Degen (Erlangen University), Cédric Degrange (Neuchâtel University), Jacques Dubucs (Université de Paris 1), Nadine Gessler (Neuchâtel University), Jean-Pierre Ginisti (Université de Lyon 3), Bob Hale (University of Sheffield), Pierre Joray (Université de Rennes 1), Mathieu Marion (Université du Québec à Montréal), Per Martin-Löf (University of Stockholm), Hartley Slater (University of Western Australia), Göran Sundholm (University of Leiden), Klaus Thiel (LMU München) and Anna Zielinska (Université de Grenoble 2).

This issue of the *Travaux de Logique* is a partial publication of the papers presented in Neuchâtel, including also the contributions of Philip Ebert and Marcus Rossberg (University of St. Andrews) and Luca Incurvati (University of Cambridge), who were not able to join the conference. I must precise that the participants whose papers do

¹ See, in particular, *Travaux de logique* 16 (2005).

not appear here decided, for various reasons, to publish by other means, the quality of their work being thus absolutely not in question.

Contrary to quite a common opinion, logicism and reflexions about the foundations of mathematics are not only of historical interest. In spite of the failure of classical logicist programmes and the discovery of important internal limitations of formalisms, foundationalist projects have been the source of huge developments and progress in logic and the philosophy of mathematics. I hope the reader will see in this volume how logicism and foundationalism, today usually far from any strong reductionist thesis, still form a living and stimulating research area.

As the former director of Neuchâtel's research programme and the organizer of the conference, I would like to thank the authors for the quality of their contributions and the richness of their participation to the scientific discussions. It is also a pleasure for me to express my gratitude to my collaborators, Nadine Gessler and Cédric Degrange, and especially to Denis Miéville, the Director of the Institute for Logic. Without his constant and friendly support, the project would not have been this successful. Let me also thank for their decisive financial contributions the Swiss National Science Foundation, the University of Neuchâtel, the Centre Romand de Logique, Histoire et Philosophie des Sciences and the Swiss Society for Logic and Philosophy of Science.

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