

Speaker: Kenneth Manders
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2:00 PM

125 Hayes-Healy Hall

Title: Expressive means and intelligibility in mathematics

Abstract:

Intellectual accomplishment fundamentally consists in improved intelligibility. Direct attacks on “What is Knowledge?” must diagnose intelligibility enhancements. Mathematical contexts can provide relatively straightforward criteria of improvement. What kind of differences matter, and how? Many examples indicate:

Transformation of expressive usages is a first mover in intelligibility enhancement.

Expressive modifications in mathematics can facilitate strategic information management, and structuring of search spaces.

Central tenets of contemporary analytic philosophy must then adapt. Although declarative contents must indeed be importantly intertranslatable across such transformations (“straightforward criteria of improvement”), those translations fundamentally cannot preserve epistemically crucial intelligibility contributions.

Providing a basis for sound justificatory practice, the central “foundations” concern, is only one requirement on an expressive usage.