

# Preface

The present book results from three papers. Each of them has been written independently of the others by one of us, but they share a common philosophical and historical background. All of them question a too easy reading of the origins of logicism, one which assimilates different views and purposes, both with one another and with more modern (but not necessarily more appropriate) conceptions. The common aim is to emphasise nuances and peculiarities among different ways of pursuing a program which only very broadly could be described as the reduction of (a part of) mathematics to logic. Though mainly devoted to discuss (some of) Dedekind's and Frege's views, they also deal with other conceptions somehow connected with these, in particular some endorsed by Lagrange, Cauchy, Weierstrass, Hilbert, Russell, Ramsey and Carnap.

The papers, or some of their previous versions, have somehow circulated within the scientific community, but have all remained unpublished up to now. We decided to put them together in a single volume, both because of their dealing with a common topic and because of their complementarity. They stem from shared standpoints and conceptions concerning the particular subject of enquiry, as well as on matters of philosophical and historical methodology, and their final versions, which we present here, ensue from many exchanges among us. But they pursue different specific aims. We hope they could jointly contribute to a better and more detailed picture of a crucial event in the development of philosophy of mathematics and logic. The common questions which our papers deal with and their different intents have been described in a newly written, coauthored introduction.

The *Institute d'Histoire et Philosophie des Sciences et des Techniques* in Paris (IHPST) has been the common context of our research. It is an intellectual home for all of us. Though written independently of each other, our papers have been prompted by a number of discussions we had among us, and with a large number of colleagues at the IHPST, at its seminars and workshops, but also, and possibly above all, during the everyday life at the Institute. To put it in another way: our book is the outcome of the rich intellectual dynamic made possible within the IHPST.

But it owes a great deal also to other influences, suggestions and comments. The list of all those who variously contributed to this and would deserve our acknowledgement would be too long. Let us thank some of them, as representative of all the others, namely: Andrew Arana, Mark van Atten, Michael Beaney, Jean-Pierre Belna, Francesca Boccuni, Méven Cadet, Stefania Centrone, Annalisa Coliva, Sorin Costreie, Michael Detlefsen, Jean Dhombres, Jacques Dubucs, Giovanni Ferraro, José Ferreirós, Sébastien Gandon, Jean Gayon, Jeremy Gray, Niccolò Guicciardini, Brice Halimi, Raclavsky Jiri, Joseph Johnson, Gregory Landini, Paolo Mancosu, Sebastiano Moruzzi, Alberto Naibo, Fabrice Pataut, Carlo Penco, Eva Picardi, Dag Prawitz, Shahid Rahman, Philippe de Rouilhan, Andrea Sereni, Stewart Shapiro, Dirk Schlimm, François Schmitz, Wilfried Sieg, Göran Sundholm, Jamie Tappenden, Luca Tranchini, Gabriele Usberti and Pierre Wagner.

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Hourya Benis-Sinaceur  
Marco Panza  
Gabriel Sandu

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Reflections on Dedekind's and Frege's Logicisms

Benis-Sinaceur, H.; Panza, M.; Sandu, G.

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