

***The appropriation (or misappropriation) of Imre Lakatos in Mathematics Education:  
An Interchange with David Pimm***

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This lecture and seminar revolves around a paper entitled “An Ode to Ime Lakatos” published by the speaker in *Interchange* as part of a special issue of the International History and Philosophy of Science Group. In this paper, I boldly theorized the didactical possibilities of Lakatos’ work and created a classroom scenario where the real and the imaginary intertwined in the context of combinatorial counting problems. One of the consequences of the paper was a study conducted in South Korea based on the theoretical possibilities outlined in this paper with talented mathematics students. Another consequence was that this paper intellectually provoked David Pimm to respond, and he in turn presented a paper entitled “Will the real Lakatos please stand up?” at the next meeting of the IHPST group in Calgary 2007. I was asked to write a counter response to David’s paper, which is entitled “Let Lakatos Be!” , in which I reflect on my position on Lakatos 8 years ago, and my new position on the significance of his work for mathematics education, partly as a result of David’s response, and partly as a result of my own awareness of the appropriation and misappropriation of Lakatos’ work in mathematics education. In this talk, I will re-construct this 3 year interchange on Lakatos between me and David Pimm, and open the floor for discussion on the significance of Lakatos for mathematics education.

References

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