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De|mathematisation and ideology in times of capitalism: recovering critical distance.

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Summary: This essay takes an ethical dilemma posed by current technological developments as a point of departure for discussing the dialectic of mathematisation and simultaneous demathematisation as a social phenomenon and a challenge for society. This dialectic of de|mathematisation is discussed in relation to a conception of ideology that has been developed within the field of mathematics education as well as in relation to an alternative conception recently imported to mathematics education from the field of political psychoanalysis. By analysing media reports, advertisement campaigns and a sociological study on dating portals, the analysis reveals shifts that have recently occurred in de|mathematisation and its ideological framing. This embedding in popular culture allows for a better understanding of the interplay between de|mathematisation and the sphere of political economy within late capitalism. Finally, the author provides an outlook on how the conclusions drawn could contribute to a further development of a mathematics education that critically reflects its role in society.

Classification: A40 D20

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