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Ethnomathematics and the philosophy of mathematics (education).

Löwe, Benedikt (ed.) et al., PhiMSAMP. Philosophy of Mathematics: Sociological aspects and mathematical practice. Including selected papers of the 3rd PhiMSAMP conference ‘Is mathematics special?’, Vienna, Austria, 2008. London: College Publications (ISBN 978-1-904987-95-6/pbk). Texts in Philosophy 11, 121-154 (2010).

This paper provides an introduction to the current meaning of ethnomathematics and places its role in education within a broad context. Areas of research influenced by ethnomathematics are critically described: anthropology, history, philosophy, and education. In treating philosophy, the author recounts serious misgivings with Eric Livingston’s approach in his 1986 *The ethnomethodological foundations of mathematics*. More fulfilling for the author’s purpose is Raymond Wilder’s work, beginning with his plenary talk at the 1950 International Congress of Mathematicians and especially including his [*R. L. Wilder, Mathematics as a cultural system. Foundations and Philosophy of Science and Technology Series. Oxford etc.: Pergamon Press. (1981; Zbl 0558.00012)*]. The influence of ethnomathematics is felt today, the author states, especially in the recognition of the cultural diversity of mathematical practices. In this respect also it is noted that there is a mutual influence between ethnomathematics and the philosophies of egalitarianism on a global scale.

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Classification: A30 E20 D20

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