



**KURT GÖDEL RESEARCH CENTER FOR
MATHEMATICAL LOGIC**

UNIVERSITÄT WIEN

1090 WIEN, WÄHRINGER STRASSE 25

O.UNIV.-PROF. DR. SY-DAVID FRIEDMAN



INVITATION

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UNFOLDING THE CONTENT OF THE CONCEPT OF SET

Abstract:

In his famous paper on the continuum problem, Kurt Gödel states that there are some axioms of set theory "which a more profound understanding of the concepts underlying logic and mathematics would enable us to recognize as implied by these concepts" (Gödel, 1964, 477.). He states that such axioms "only unfold the content of the concept of set" (Gödel, 1964, 476f.). These statements are remarkable in part because they suggest that mere understanding of concepts is sufficient for knowing some axioms of set theory. This is to say that some axioms of set theory are, in some sense, analytic or conceptually true. In this paper, I propose two ways of defending this Gödelian unfolding claim. First, I argue for it on the basis of our ordinary practice of ascribing mathematical concepts. Second, I argue for it from a theoretical point of view; I examine three main accounts of concept possession, and argue that the Gödelian unfolding claim is true on these accounts if these accounts are to be in line with the way people actually possess the concept of set.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2016

Sandwiches at 12:00pm in the KGRC meeting room (room 104)

Talk at a convenient time afterwards in the KGRC lecture room (room 101)

GÖDEL RESEARCH CENTER
JOSEPHINUM, 1090 WIEN, WÄHRINGER STRASSE 25



[http://www.logic.univie.ac.at/
Friday_seminar.html](http://www.logic.univie.ac.at/Friday_seminar.html)

o.Univ.-Prof. Dr. Sy-David Friedman