

Lecture 1: Frege's Conception of Logic

Philosophy of Logic and Language — HT 2017-18

Jonny McIntosh

jonathon.mcintosh@balliol.ox.ac.uk

Works by Frege

The main pieces this week are *Foundations* and the Foreword to *Basic Laws*:

Foundations: The Foundations of Arithmetic, transl. by J. L. Austin (Oxford: Blackwell, 1950). Originally published as *Die Grundlagen der Arithmetik* (Breslau: Verlage Wilhelm Koebner, 1884)

Basic Laws: Basic Laws of Arithmetic, transl. and ed. by Philip A. Ebert and Marcus Rossberg with Crispin Wright (Oxford: OUP, 2013). Originally published as *Grundgesetze der Arithmetik*, Band I (Jena: Verlag Hermann Pohle, 1893) and II (1903).

A shorter piece, 'Logic' (1897), is also useful, and can be found in:

The Frege Reader, ed. by Michael Beaney (Oxford: Blackwell, 1997).

Posthumous Writings, ed. by H. Hermes, F. Kambartel, and F. Kaulbach, transl. by P. Long and R. White (Oxford: Blackwell, 1979).

Secondary Reading

Macfarlane (2002) is the key text this week. Starred items (*) are more introductory, and good places to start. Harman (1986), Macfarlane (2004), and Steinberger (2017) are essential reading on issues of normativity and logic. The alleged normativity of logic is sometimes thought to be a problem for logical pluralism, the view (roughly) that rival logics may be equally correct. See Russell (2017) for critical discussion of this and further references, see Russell (2017). It is sometimes argued that Frege's conception of logic as maximally general precludes him from taking a metatheoretic perspective on his logic. For discussion and references, see Goldfarb (2010) and Blanchette (2012).

Patricia Blanchette (2012) *Frege's Conception of Logic* (Oxford: OUP), Ch. 7.

Warren Goldfarb (2010) 'Frege's Conception of Logic' in Michael Potter and Tom Ricketts, eds. *The Cambridge Companion to Frege* (Cambridge: CUP).

- Gilbert Harman (1986) *Change in View: Principles of Reasoning* (MIT Press).
- *Edward Kanterian (2012) *Frege: A Guide for the Perplexed* (London: Continuum), Ch. 2.
- John MacFarlane (2002) 'Frege, Kant, and the Logic in Logicism' in *The Philosophical Review* 111(1), pp. 25-65.
- (2004) 'In What Sense (If Any) Is Logic Normative for Thought?' Presentation at the Central Division APA 2004.
- Gillian Russell (2017) 'Logic isn't normative' in *Inquiry* 69(259), pp. 1-18.
- *Florian Steinberger (2016) 'The Normative Status of Logic' in E. Zalta, ed. *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*: <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/logic-normative/>
- *Mark Textor (2011) *Frege on Sense and Reference* (London: Routledge), Ch. 1.