

On Intuition in Algebraic Geometry During the 20th century // Sur la
géométrie algébrique en France, 1850-1900

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The role of intuition and rigor in the mathematical work of Federigo Enriques

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Intuition can be defined as an inductive way of thinking, that assumes an immediate and direct relationship between the thinking subject and the object of his thoughts; this relationship can then be viewed either as a mere presence of the object in the mind of the thinker or even as an identification of the subject with the object. Usually intuition is opposed to rigor, that can be defined as the rigid, strict coherence of the deductions with the premises, in view of the established method. In the geometric work of Enriques intuition and yearning to a deep sense of rigor both play a central role and in my talk I will try to describe, making some examples, how they intertwine in Enriques' writings.

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