

Review of: "Impossibilities, mathematics, and logic"

Robert Stalnaker¹

1 Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This paper consists of an observation that some interesting, important, and initially surprising results in mathematics are proofs of the impossibility of certain constructions, or of certain conclusions one might have expected to be true. Two familiar examples are sketched, one going back to ancient Greek mathematics, the other from the beginning of set theory. But no problem, either mathematical or philosophical, is raised about this observation. No general question about it is asked, no general conclusion drawn. It is an interesting fact that there are so many impossibility theorems in mathematics and applied mathematics, but to have a paper one needs to do something with it.

Qeios ID: B4D3HG · https://doi.org/10.32388/B4D3HG