

Title: *As If* Category Theory Were a Foundation

Abstract: I will use my current *as-ifist* approach to both survey and reconsider the foundational role of category theory. I will first outline my *as-ifist* approach, showing that it arises from Plato's account of mathematics. I will then detail its similarities and differences with *if-thenism*. I will next consider Maddy's *enhanced* if-thenist approach and use my *as-ifist* approach to respond to the standard structuralist objections for taking category theory as a foundation for mathematics. Building from these investigations, I will argue for a structuralist position that takes category theory *as if* it were a foundation for mathematics.