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"What is mathematics?" In contrast to the common view of mathematics as eternal and universal, mathematics education seems very much a local enterprise, bound by the customs and usages of the educational system in which it takes place. That provincialism works against orthodoxy, against global definitions, widely accepted assumptions, and unified theories. It has produced a field of scholarship without common criteria for doing research or common structures in which that research is done. But it has also produced a field in which serious international discourse is both possible and productive and in which collaborative work is increasing both locally and across national boundaries.

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