



UNIVERSITÄT
ZU KÖLN

Kolloquiumsvortrag

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**Proof and democracy:
the relevance of logic in an age of rhetoric**

**am Dienstag, 01.07.2025 / 16.00 Uhr
Institut für Mathematikdidaktik
Herbert-Lewin-Str. 10 / Geb. 906 / Raum S182**

An origin story often told for mathematical proof connects it with democratic discourse in ancient Athens. In that story a special discourse used to settle public issues became the model for proof. Centuries later, Descartes flipped this story, taking mathematical proof as the model for discourse used to settle public issues. We now live in a time when both democracy and logic are under threat, and proof has almost vanished from schools in many places. What should mathematics educators do in this context? What can we do?