## 1150-00-242 **Bernd Buldt\*** (buldtb@pfw.edu), Purdue University Fort Wayne, Department of Mathematical Sciences, 2101 E Coliseum Blvd, Fort Wayne, IN 46805. *Why we are Platonists*. Preliminary report.

In this talk I give an answer to the question why Platonism comes so naturally to most mathematicians. The answer, based on a phenomenological analysis, is that the same criteria that make us believe in the reality of an external world make mathematicians believe in the reality of a mathematical realm. A critical role is played by an observation first made by Wilhelm Dilthey that did not, however, become a staple in traditional, Husserlian phenomenology. The argument proceeds in three steps: I first give a summary of the developments that inspired the phenomenological approach; this will provide us with four criteria for ascribing reality to concrete external objects. Then, in a third step, I show how these four criteria can be applied to the question of whether abstract objects are "real" or not. (Received July 10, 2019)