

Picado's Interview with Lawvere

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Jorge Picado (who is also coauthor of the book on *locales* I am reading) has many nice 'popularisation of mathematics' articles on his webpage. I have enjoyed a lot his interview with William Lawvere.

- <http://www.mat.uc.pt/~picado/lawvere/interview.pdf>

Specially interesting is this criticism to the extra-mathematical publicity around Gödel's theorem. However, I cannot locate exactly what 'organized attempts' is he referring to.

In Diagonal arguments and Cartesian closed categories we demystified the incompleteness theorem of Godel and the truth-definition theory of Tarski by showing that both are consequences of some very simple algebra in the Cartesian-closed setting. It was always hard for many to comprehend how Cantor's mathematical theorem could be re-christened as a "paradox" by Russell and how Godel's theorem could be so often declared to be the most significant result of the 20th century. There was always the suspicion among scientists that such extra-mathematical publicity movements concealed an agenda for re-establishing belief as a substitute for science. Now, one hundred years after Godel's birth, the organized attempts to harness his great mathematical work to such an agenda have become explicit.