

JEAN-MARIE NICOLLE

## How does the mind produce mathematical objects?

### *Abstract*

*While practicing mathematics, Nicholas of Cusa studied the working of the mind and wrote De mente in which he outlines his theory about the nature of mathematical objects (numbers, figures and proportions). The debate is between the Platonic theory and the Aristotelian one. While he quotes the famous biblical sentence which gives to mathematical objects a divine origin, Nicholas of Cusa demonstrates that the mind “makes” these objects. What does this production mean? Moreover, the mathematical objects belong to a genealogy. This generation has its own laws but only becomes true if the mind conceives it. Of what does this generation of numbers and figures consist?*