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Does a mathematician need a university?

Who can consider himself to be a mathematician? Can someone who graduated in mathematics call himself a mathematician? Do modern universities educate mathematicians, or just people with a master's degree in mathematics? What influence on the education of future masters of mathematics has the „current version” of the university?

Humboldt's university idea involved the search for truth, knowledge production, educating people in the process of solving problems and a right to choose the research areas... Is Humboldt's concept of the three principles of unity: knowledge; professors and students; and research and education, still valid today?

Is this the twilight of universities or just a temporary crisis? Actually, for hundreds of years, since the first communities of scholars and students began to form, there were always hints about a crisis of universities. Once, the hints concerned the elitism, „ossification”, maladjustment to life, the decay of morals, the greed of professors and the debauchery of students. Today, however, the seemingly common access to knowledge and a lack of entrance exams leads to: the reduction in the level of education, weaker students, less active professors, and obtained diplomas being worth less than the paper they are written on.

The question about the future of universities, not only in the context of demographic problems, as well as technological and social challenges, is up to date throughout the world.

Does a mathematician need a university with all these difficulties and issues? And if so, how should such a university look like?

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