Phil 232
Spring 25
T 4-6:50
Office Hour: T 3-4

Pragmatism: A Theory, Methodology, Ideology?

Requirements: Class presentation, Final paper.

Distribution requirements: Depending on the paper topic, the seminar can be used to satisfy the distribution requirements in E&M, History, Science, Lang, Ethics.

Schedule of Classes:

T 4/1	Introduction to Seminar and Selection of Topics
T 4/8	Charles Sanders Peirce & William James
T 4/15	John Dewey (C.I. Lewis, Frank Ramsey)
T 4/22	Rudolf Carnap & W.V. Quine
T 4/29	Hilary Putnam (Wilfrid Sellars)
T 5/6	Richard Rorty & Robert Brandom
T 5/13	Cheryl Misak & Charlene Seigfried
T 5/20	Karl-Otto Apel (German Transcendental Pragmatist)
T 5/27	Jürgen Habermas
T 6/3	Hasok Chang (Huw Price)

Readings (Can be found on Canvas, Files)

Charles Sanders Peirce

"Some Consequences of Four Incapacities" (1868)
"The Fixation of Belief" (1877)
"How to make Our Ideas Clear" (1878)
"What Pragmatism Is" (1905)

William James

"The Stream of Thought" (1890)
"The Will to Believe" (1896)
"What Pragmatism Means" (1907)
"Pragmatism's Conception of Truth" (1907)
"A Word More About Truth" (1907)
"The Pragmatist Account of Truth and Its Misunderstandings" (1908)
"The Relation between Knower and Known" (1909)

John Dewey

"The Reflex Arc Concept in Psychology" (1896)
"Thought and its Subject Matter" (1903)
"The Realism of Pragmatism" (1905)
"Does Reality Possess Practical Character?" (1908)
"The Need for a Recovery in Philosophy" (1917)
"The Development of American Pragmatism" (1925)
"The Pattern of Inquiry" (1939)

Rudolf Carnap

"Pseudoproblems in Philosophy" (1928)
"The Elimination of Metaphysics Through Logical Analysis of Language" (1932)
"Empiricism, Semantics, and Ontology" (1950)

W.V. Quine

"Truth by Convention" (1935)
"Two Dogmas of Empiricism" (1951)
"Carnap and Logical Truth" (1954)
"Speaking of Objects" (1957-8)
"Ontological Relativity" (1968)

Hilary Putnam

"Two Philosophical Perspectives" (1981)
"Sense, Nonsense, and the Senses: The Antinomy of Realism" (1994)
Pragmatism: An Open Question (1995)
"Corresponding with Reality" (2011)

Richard Rorty

Philosophy and the Mirror of Nature: Privileged Representations (1979)
"Pragmatism, Relativism, and Irrationalism" (1980)
Consequences of Pragmatism: Introduction (1982)

Robert Brandom

"Pragmatism, Phenomenalism, and Truth Talk" (1987)
"The Pragmatist Enlightenment (and its Problematic Semantics)" (2004)
"Towards an Analytic Pragmatism" (2007)
"An Arc of Thought: From Rorty's Eliminative Materialism to his Pragmatism" (2007)
"Intentionality and Language: A Normative, Pragmatist, Inferentialist Approach" (2011)
"From German Idealism to American Pragmatism—and Back" (2015)

Cheryl Misak

"Pragmatism and The Transcendental Turn in Truth and Ethics" (1994)
"Pragmatism and Pluralism" (2005)
"The Subterranean Influence of Pragmatism on the Vienna Circle" (2016)
"There Can Be No Difference Anywhere that Doesn't Make a Difference Somewhere" (2018)
"Habermas's Place in the History of Pragmatism" (2020)

Charlene Seigfried

"The Missing Perspective: Feminist Pragmatism" (1991)
"Shared Communities of Interest: Feminism and Pragmatism" (1993)
"Pragmatist Metaphysics? Why Terminology Matters" (2001)
"A Pragmatist Response to Death: Jane Addams on the Permanent and the Transient" (2007)

Karl-Otto Apel

"The a priori of communication and the foundation of the humanities" (1972)
"The Problem of Philosophical Fundamental-Grounding in Light of a Transcendental
        Pragmatic of Language" (1975)
Understanding and Explanation: A Transcendental-Pragmatic Perspective (1979)
"Discourse Ethics as a Response to the Novel Challenges of Today's Reality to
        Coresponsibility" (1993)

Jurgen Habermas

Justification and Application: Remarks on Discourse Ethics (1993)
On the Pragmatics of Communication (1998)

Hasok Chang

"How to Take Realism Beyond Foot-Stamping" (2001)
"Pragmatic Realism" (2016)
"Pragmatist Coherence as the Source of Truth and Reality" (2016-17)
"Is Pluralism Compatible with Scientific Realism" (2017)
"Realism for Realistic People" (2018)

Additional Readings:

Boucher, Sandy & Forbes, Curtis. 2024. "The pragmatic turn in the scientific realism debate."

Clifford, William. 1877. "The Ethics of Belief"

Godfrey-Smith, Peter. 2013. "Quine and Pragmatism"

Haack, Susan. 1976. "The Pragmatist Theory of Truth"
----. 1984. "Can James's Theory of Truth be made More Satisfactory?"
----. 1992. "Science from A Feminist Perspective"
----. 1993. "Double Aspect Foundherentism: A New Theory of Empirical Justification"
----. 2018. "The World and How We Know It"

Hampson, Timothy & McKinley, Jim. 2023. "Problems Posing as Solutions: Criticising
        Pragmatism as a Paradigm for Mixed Research"

Horkheimer, Max. 1947. *The Eclipse of Reason*: Means and Ends.

Lewis, C.I. 1923. "A Pragmatic Conception of the A Priori"
----. 1929. *Mind and World Order*

Lynch, Michael. 2015. "Pragmatism and the Price of Truth"

McDermid, Douglas. 1998. "Pragmatism and Truth: The Comparison Objection to
        Correspondence"

Nevo, Isaac. 2013. "W. V. O. Quine - Pragmatism within the Limits of Empiricism Alone"

Price, Huw. 1996. "Two Paths to Pragmatism"
----. 2003. "Truth as Convenient Friction"
----. 2004. "Naturalism without representationalism"
----. 2007. "Pragmatism, Quasi-realism and the Global Challenge" (with David Macarthur)
----. 2023. "Time for Pragmatism"

Ramsey, Frank. 1910. "Facts and Propositions" (G.E. Moore)
----. 1926. "Truth and Probability"
----. 1929. "The Nature of Truth"

Richardson, Alan. 2008. "Carnapian Pragmatism"

Russell, Bertrand. 1946. *History of Western Philosophy:* James
----.1946. *History of Western Philosophy:* Dewey

Sellars, Wilfrid. 1956. "Empiricism and the Philosophy of Mind"

Van Fraassen, Bas. 1977. "The Only Necessity is Verbal Necessity"
----. 1980. "The Pragmatic Theory of Explanation"
----. 1997. "The Pragmatics of Explanation"
----. 2001. "Constructive Empiricism Now"
----. 2002. *The Empirical Stance*

Vienna Circle. 1929. "The Scientific Conception of the World" - Manifesto