

NEW ENGLAND PRAGMATIST FORUM (NEPF)

INAUGURAL CONFERENCE

Focus of the inaugural conference: The Philosophy of John Dewey

When: October 15-17, 2015 (most events on Friday, October 16)

Where: Green Mountain College, Poultney, Vermont

If you are interested in being on the emailing list for the “New England Pragmatist Forum,” please email Steven Fesmire at fesmires@greenmtn.edu.

Conference schedule:

- Thursday, October 15, 2015
Informal gathering (families warmly welcomed!) between 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. at the Fesmire-Keith home in East Poultney, Vermont (fesmires@greenmtn.edu or keithh@greenmtn.edu for directions), then at the Pub (Taps Tavern, Main St., Poultney).
- Friday, October 16, 2015
In addition to B&B’s, breakfast options (on your own) on Main Street in Poultney include Perry’s Diner, Tot’s Diner, and Nancy’s Café.
 - 8:30 a.m. - Coffee & Conversation, East Room, 2nd floor of Withey Hall, Green Mountain College
 - 8:45 a.m. - Welcome, East Room, Green Mountain College
 - Rest of Friday schedule TBA
 - 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. - Book exhibit and sales (Hermit Hill bookstore, Main St., Poultney), between
- Saturday, October 17, 2015
- Saturday a.m. plans TBA

Lodging information:

Late September through October is "leaf peeper" season in Vermont (over 3.5 million people come to our state of 600,000 during those weeks), so it’s important to get lodging booked early. In case you’d like to stay in the village of Poultney, or nearby East Poultney during the conference, rooms have been set aside from October 15-17 at two local Inns:

1. **Bentley House B&B** in Poultney across the street from the college ([link here](#); call direct to reserve, as the website will show no availability: 802-287-4004)
2. **Bird House Inn** two miles away in the postcard village of East Poultney ([link here](#); 802-287-2405).

Meals:

- For those not staying in B&B’s, Poultney has two pleasant diners for breakfast (We have one of just about everything else: pub, bookstore, bank, post office, co-op market, hardware store, coffee shop/bakery, etc.). Lunch on October 16 in Green Mountain College’s dining hall will be complimentary for all presenters.

- Conference Reception / Pub: Taps Tavern, Main Street, Poultney, VT
- Conference Bookseller: Hermit Hill Books; 95 Main Street; Poultney, VT 05764; [802-287-5757](tel:802-287-5757); hermithill@vermontel.net ; www.hermithillbooks.com; Hours: Tuesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Books from many presenters will be available for perusal and purchase. Please feel free to contact the owner, Patricia McWilliams.
- Bicycle Rentals and Repair: Johnson and Son Bikeworks; http://www.johnsonandsonbikeworks.com/about_video/

Conference Presenters:

- **Peter Godfrey-Smith** (Distinguished Professor of Philosophy, CUNY Graduate Center): Title: *Dewey and Anti-Representationalism*
- **Cheryl Misak** (Professor of Philosophy, University of Toronto): Tentative title: *Holmes, Dewey and the Authority of Law*
- **Leonard Waks** (Professor Emeritus of Educational Leadership, Temple University, and President of the John Dewey Society): Tentative title: *Experimentalism and the Higher Learning: John Dewey's Conception of the University*
- **Scott Pratt** (Professor of Philosophy and Dean of the Graduate School, University of Oregon): Tentative title: *Geography, History and the Aims of Education: The Paradox of Multiculturalism in Democracy and Education*
- **Heather Keith** (Professor of Philosophy and Director of the Center for Excellence in Teaching & Learning, Green Mountain College): Title: *Disability Ethics: A Pragmatist Approach to Human Dignity and Inclusive Community*
- **David Hildebrand** (Associate Professor and Chair of Philosophy, University of Colorado Denver): Tentative title: *Why Experience Still Matters*
- ***Mark Okrent** (Professor and Chair of Philosophy, Bates College): Title TBA
- ***Willem deVries** (Professor of Philosophy, University of New Hampshire): Title TBA
- ***Steven Levine** (Associate Professor of Philosophy, UMass Boston): Tentative title: *Dewey, Habits, and the McDowell/Dreyfus Debate*
- **Catharine Wells** (Professor of Law, Boston College): Topic: Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. and John Dewey
- **Phillip Deen** (Senior Lecturer of Philosophy and Humanities, University of New Hampshire at Manchester): Tentative title: *Dewey and the Unfinished Project of Modernity (Insights from the "lost manuscript")*
- **Richard Atkins** (Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Boston College): Tentative title: *Facts and True Propositions*
- **David Granger** (Professor of Education, SUNY Geneseo and editor of Education & Culture): Tentative Topic: John Dewey and Albert Barnes
- **John Kaag** (Associate Professor of Philosophy, University of Massachusetts, Lowell): Title TBA
- **Doris Santoro** (Associate Professor of Education, Bowdoin College): Tentative topic: Dewey and teacher criticism of contemporary educational policy
- ***Drew Christie** (Philosophy, University of New Hampshire): Title TBA

* Member of the New England Neo-Pragmatist Reading Group

- **Steven Fesmire** (Professor of Philosophy and Environmental Studies, Green Mountain College): Title: *Dewey's Denotative-Experimental Method as Mapping: Inquiry, Representation, and Truth*

About the Presenters:

- **Richard Atkins** is Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Boston College. He is author of *Puzzled?! An Introduction to Philosophizing* (Hackett) and numerous essays, mainly on the philosophy of Charles S. Peirce.
- **Drew Christie** is a philosophy professor at the University of New Hampshire. (Bio forthcoming)
- **Phillip Deen** is Senior Lecturer of Philosophy and Humanities at the University of New Hampshire. In addition to being the editor of Dewey's "lost manuscript" *Unmodern Philosophy and Modern Philosophy*, his work has appeared in *The Journal of Social Philosophy*, *Public Affairs Quarterly*, *The Journal of Value Inquiry*, and *History of Political Thought*. His recent research interest has been on the application of pragmatist model of inquiry to issues in contemporary democratic theory, such as the relation between truth and democratic authority in the climate debate and the place of virtue education in public schools.
- **Willem deVries** is Professor of Philosophy at the University of New Hampshire. (Bio forthcoming)
- **Steven Fesmire** holds a joint appointment as Professor of Philosophy and Environmental Studies at Green Mountain College in Vermont. He is the author of *Dewey* (Routledge Press, 2015) and *John Dewey and Moral Imagination: Pragmatism in Ethics* (Indiana University Press, 2003), winner of a 2005 Choice "Outstanding Academic Title" award. He is editing the *Oxford Handbook of Dewey* for Oxford University Press while preparing a manuscript titled *Ecological Imagination: Essays in Practical Ethics and Education*. He was a 2009 Fulbright Scholar at Kyoto University and will be a 2016 Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland.
- **Peter Godfrey-Smith** is Distinguished Professor of Philosophy at the Graduate Center, City University of New York, and Professor of History and Philosophy of Science (part-time) at the University of Sydney. After studying at the University of Sydney and UC San Diego, he previously taught at Stanford University, the Australian National University, and Harvard University. His main research interests are in the philosophy of biology and philosophy of mind, and he also works on pragmatism (especially John Dewey) and general philosophy of science. He is the author of four books, including *Theory and Reality: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Science* (Chicago, 2003), and *Darwinian Populations and Natural Selection* (Oxford, 2009), which won the 2010 Lakatos Award.
- **David Granger** is Professor of Education and Humanities at SUNY Geneseo, where he teaches courses in educational foundations and humanities and also serves as the Faculty Athletic Representative (FAR). He is the author of *John Dewey, Robert Pirsig, and the Art of Living: Revisioning Aesthetic Education* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2006), and has published numerous articles on John Dewey and aesthetics in journals including *The Inter-American Journal of Philosophy*, *Educational Theory*, *Studies in Philosophy and Education*, the *Journal of Aesthetic Education*, the *Journal of Curriculum Studies*, *Teachers College*

Record, Educational Studies, and Educational Change. In addition, Granger serves as editor of the John Dewey Society journal *Education & Culture*.

- **David Hildebrand** is Associate Professor and Chair of Philosophy at the University of Colorado Denver. He is the author of *Beyond Realism and Antirealism: John Dewey and the Neopragmatists* (Vanderbilt UP, 2003) and *Dewey: A Beginner's Guide* (Oxford: Oneworld Press, 2008). A recent focus has been on the language-experience tension in pragmatism and neopragmatism (especially, *European Journal of Pragmatism and American Philosophy*). Other recent interests include the nature of pragmatic objectivity, commentary on Joseph Margolis' pragmatism, the aesthetic distinction between art and entertainment, and an introduction to Dewey (*Cambridge Companion to Pragmatism*). He's presently working on Dewey's *Democracy and Education* (Educational Theory), Rorty's version of Dewey (for *A Companion to Rorty*, Wiley-Blackwell), and Dewey (topic undecided! in *Oxford Handbooks*). He'll be presenting at the Second European Pragmatism Conference (Paris, 2015) with Antje Gimmmler, Joseph Margolis, and Bjørn Ramberg. He has one wife, one son, one daughter, one cat, and two guitars.
- **John Kaag** is Associate Professor of Philosophy at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell. (Bio forthcoming)
- **Heather Keith** is Professor of Philosophy and Director of the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning at Green Mountain College in Vermont. Her research and teaching interests include American philosophy, comparative philosophy, feminist theory, and ethics. She is co-author of *Intellectual Disability: Ethics, Dehumanization, and A New Moral Community* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2013).
- **Steven Levine** is Associate Professor of Philosophy at the University of Massachusetts, Boston. He is interested in Pragmatism, the Philosophy of Mind, and German Idealism. He has published many articles on these topics in journals like *The European Journal of Philosophy*, *The Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, *The Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society*, *Philosophical Topics*, amongst others. He is currently writing a book entitled *Pragmatism, Objectivity, and Experience*.
- **Cheryl Misak** is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Toronto. She is the author of *Truth and the End of Inquiry: A Peircean Account of Truth; Verificationism: Its History and Prospects; Truth, Politics, Morality*; *Pragmatism and Deliberation*; *The American Pragmatists*; and (forthcoming) *Cambridge Pragmatism: From Peirce and James to Ramsey and Wittgenstein*.
- **Mark Okrent** is Professor and Chair of Philosophy at Bates College. (Bio forthcoming)
- **Scott Pratt** is Professor of Philosophy and Dean of the Graduate School at the University of Oregon. He is coauthor of *American Philosophy from Wounded Knee to the Present* (Bloomsbury, 2015) and author of two books, *Native Pragmatism: Rethinking the Roots of American Philosophy* (Indiana University Press, 2002) and *Logic: Inquiry, Argument and Order* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2010). He is co-editor of four volumes including *American Philosophies: An Anthology* (Blackwell, 2002). He has published articles on the philosophy of pluralism, Dewey's theory of inquiry, Josiah Royce's logic, and on the intersection of American philosophy and the philosophies of indigenous North American peoples.
- **Doris Santoro** is Associate Professor of Education at Bowdoin College where she teaches courses in educational studies and teacher education. She researches teachers'

moral concerns about their work and their moral arguments for resistance. Her work has appeared in *American Journal of Education*, *Curriculum Inquiry*, *Education and Culture* and *Teachers College Record*. She is co-editor (with Terri S. Wilson) of and contributor to a special issue of *Studies in Philosophy and Education* on philosophical inquiry pursued through empirical research. Currently, she is writing a book on the moral sources of teacher attrition, dissatisfaction and resistance as well as conducting a study about how teachers use Twitter to make moral claims. Her interests include pragmatist ethics, feminist theories and interdisciplinary philosophical research. She serves on the board of the John Dewey Society. Prior to joining the Bowdoin College faculty, she worked for 10 years in urban public schools and at an alternative to incarceration program.

- **Leonard Waks** is Professor Emeritus of Educational Leadership at Temple University, prior to which he taught philosophy at Purdue and Stanford universities. His work focuses on the relations between technology and education. He has written two books, *Technology's School* (JAI, 1995) and *Education 2.0: The Learningweb Revolution and the Transformation of the School* (Paradigm, 2013) as well as more than 100 scholarly articles and book chapters. He is now working on a book about MOOCs and the global crisis in higher education and employment. Waks was co-founder of the National Technological Literacy Conferences (1985-90) and co-director of the National Endowment for the Humanities sponsored Summer Institute on *Re-Thinking Technology: Philosophy of Technology* since 1945. He is President of the John Dewey Society and Director of the forthcoming (2016) Conference on Democratic Education celebrating the centennial of the publication of John Dewey's magisterial *Democracy and Education*.
- **Catharine Wells** is a Professor of Law at Boston College Law School, where she teaches and writes in various areas of legal theory, including Pragmatic Legal Theory, Feminist Jurisprudence and Civil Rights Theory. In addition, she teaches a class in American Philosophy in the Department of Philosophy. She has also held many positions of leadership within the academic community. She has served as the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at Boston College, as chair of the Association of American Law Schools Section on Torts and Compensation Systems, and chair of the Section on Teaching Methods. She has organized numerous symposia including one on Neo-Pragmatism in American Law, which was published in the *USC Law Review*. She has also been selected for membership in the American Law Institute and has sat on a number of their advisory boards. Prior to entering law teaching, she served as an Assistant Attorney General and Director of the Division of Public Charities for the state of Massachusetts. In the area of charities law, she has a national reputation based upon her service as past President of the National Association of State Charities Officials, as an advisor to the Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service with respect to Non-Profit Organizations; and as a participant in many panels and symposia on non-profit law. She also received her law degree *Magna Cum Laude* from Harvard Law School. She also earned an MA and PhD in Philosophy from the University of California, Berkeley. Her dissertation was titled *Peirce on Logic: the Phenomenological Bases of Normative Science*. Currently, she is working on a book about Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. and the pragmatic tradition in American law.