

## A SHORT ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY ON PRAGMATISM

### *Pragmatism's Founders: Peirce, James, and Dewey*

Any consideration of pragmatism should begin with Charles Sanders Peirce, William James, and John Dewey. Peirce laid out the basic pragmatist tenet that the meaning of a statement lies in its consequences, and he gave his views the name “pragmatism.” William James then took over the term and attached it to his own ideas just over one hundred years ago. James moved from work on psychology in the 1890s into more philosophical and religious writings. His key works include *The Will to Believe and Other Essays in Popular Philosophy*, *The Varieties of Religious Experience*, and *Pragmatism*. Dewey’s work is so vast that it is hard to know where to begin. His writings make up a multi-volume collection divided into his early, middle and late works, but the two volumes of *The Essential Dewey* offer readers a helpful selection of his writings. A few secondary sources have been included here for those who wish to study further these founders of pragmatism. For an interesting history of Peirce, James, Dewey, and Oliver Wendell Holmes, see Louis Menand’s recent book *The Metaphysical Club* (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2001).

#### **Charles Sanders Peirce**

- Peirce, Charles Sanders. *The Essential Peirce: Selected Philosophical Writings, Volume 1 (1867-1893)*. Ed. Nathan Houser and Christian Kloesel. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1992.
- ————. *The Essential Peirce: Selected Philosophical Writings, Volume 2 (1893-1913)*. Ed. Peirce Edition Project. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1998.
- Potter, Vincent G. *Peirce's Philosophical Perspectives*. Ed. Vincent M. Colapietro. New York: Fordham University Press, 1996.

- Rosenthal, Sandra B. *Charles Peirce's Pragmatic Pluralism*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 1994.

### **William James**

- James, William. *Writings 1878-1899*. Ed. Gerald E. Myers. New York: Library of America, 1992.
- ————. *Writings 1902-1910*. Ed. Bruce Kuklick. New York: Library of America, 1987.
- Seigfried, Charlene Haddock. *William James's Radical Reconstruction of Philosophy*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 1990.

### **John Dewey**

- Dewey, John. *The Essential Dewey: Volume 1: Pragmatism, Education, Democracy*. Ed. Larry A. Hickman and Thomas M. Alexander. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1998.
- ————. *The Essential Dewey: Volume 2: Ethics, Logic, Psychology*. Ed. Larry A. Hickman and Thomas M. Alexander. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1998.
- Hickman, Larry A., ed. *Reading Dewey: Interpretations for a Postmodern Generation*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1998.
- Ryan, Alan. *John Dewey and the High Tide of American Liberalism*. New York: Norton, 1995.
- Westbrook, Robert B. *John Dewey and American Democracy*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1991.

### ***Beyond the Founders***

Though interest in pragmatism properly begins with Peirce, James, and Dewey, to stop there would be to miss the great and varied riches in this tradition of thought, which includes the philosophical, aesthetic,

and literary works of such writers as Ralph Waldo Emerson, Sidney Hook, Alain Locke, G. H. Mead, Josiah Royce, and George Santayana.

- Emerson, Ralph Waldo. *Ralph Waldo Emerson*. Ed. Richard Poirier. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1990.
- Hook, Sidney. *The Metaphysics of Pragmatism*. New York: AMS, 1977.
- —————. *Pragmatism and the Tragic Sense of Life*. New York: Basic, 1974.
- Lachs, John. *George Santayana*. Boston: Twayne, 1988.
- Levin, Jonathan. *The Poetics of Transition: Emerson, Pragmatism, and American Literary Modernism*. Durham: Duke University Press, 1999.
- Locke, Alain. *Race Contacts and Interracial Relations*. Ed. Jeffrey C. Stewart. Washington, DC: Howard University Press, 1992.
- Mead, George Herbert. *The Philosophy of the Act*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1938.
- Robinson, David M. *Emerson and the Conduct of Life: Pragmatism and Ethical Purpose in the Later Work*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993.
- Royce, Josiah. *The Basic Writings of Josiah Royce*. Ed. John J. McDermott. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1969.
- Santayana, George. *The Last Puritan: A Memoir in the Form of a Novel*. New York: Scribner's, 1936.
- —————. *Scepticism and Animal Faith*. New York: Scribner's, 1929.

The following collections of essays give a broad view of the pragmatist tradition and are useful resources for both the newcomer to pragmatism or for someone whose knowledge of pragmatism is limited to a specific area of specialization:

- Goodman, Russell B., ed. *Pragmatism: A Contemporary Reader*. New York: Routledge, 1995.
- Rosenthal, Sandra B., Carl R. Hausman, et al., eds. *Classical American Pragmatism: Its Contemporary Vitality*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1999.
- Stuhr, John J., ed. *Pragmatism and Classical American Philosophy: Essential Readings and Interpretive Essays*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2000.

### *Contemporary Revival of Pragmatism*

One of the aims of this volume of *The Hedgehog Review* is to demonstrate that there is a far wider interaction with, appropriation of, and development of ideas from the classical pragmatists than many realize. This revival of pragmatism is happening on both sides of the Atlantic and fruitful interaction is occurring between American and European scholars. Contemporary pragmatist discourse ranges across a wide spectrum of topics from poetry, law, and business to feminism, race, and democracy.

- Dickstein, Morris, ed. *The Revival of Pragmatism: New Essays on Social Thought, Law, and Culture*. Durham: Duke University Press, 1998.
- Elgin, Catherine Z. *Between the Absolute and the Arbitrary*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1997.
- Fish, Stanley. *The Trouble with Principle*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1999.

- Lachs, John. *The Relevance of Philosophy to Life*. Nashville: Vanderbilt University Press, 1995.
- McDermott, John J. *The Culture of Experience: Philosophical Essays in the American Grain*. New York: New York University Press, 1976.
- Mouffe, Chantal, ed. *Deconstruction and Pragmatism: Simon Critchley, Jacques Derrida, Ernesto Laclau and Richard Rorty*. London: Routledge, 1997.
- Rosenthal, Sandra B. *Time, Continuity, and Indeterminacy: A Pragmatic Engagement with Contemporary Perspectives*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 2000.
- Shusterman, Richard. *Practicing Philosophy: Pragmatism and the Philosophical Life*. New York: Routledge, 1997.
- Stuhr, John J. *Genealogical Pragmatism: Philosophy, Experience, and Community*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 1997.
- ———, ed. *Philosophy and the Reconstruction of Culture: Pragmatic Essays after Dewey*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 1993.
- West, Cornel. *The American Evasion of Philosophy: A Genealogy of Pragmatism*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1989.
- Wilshire, Bruce. *The Primal Roots of American Philosophy: Pragmatism, Phenomenology, and Native American Thought*. University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2000.

### *Rorty and Putnam*

The literature that has grown up around these two figures alone would require a separate bibliography. Putnam's own work has developed along the lines of reason, realism, and pragmatism. One could start with *Reason, Truth, and History*, continue by way of his several volumes

of essays on these subjects, and move to his more recent work *Pragmatism: An Open Question* and his Dewey Lectures, published under the title *The Threefold Cord*. Rorty's *Consequences of Pragmatism* is a good place to start, and his book *Philosophy and Social Hope* gives the most recent formulations of his thoughts. *Contingency, Irony, and Solidarity* is probably his most read and most cited book. More recently he has generated a series of interactions with critics that looks likely to continue for some time to come.

### Hilary Putnam

- Putnam, Hilary. *The Threefold Cord: Mind, Body, and World*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1999.
- ————. *Pragmatism: An Open Question*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1995.
- ————. *Reason, Truth, and History*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1981.

### Richard Rorty

- Rorty, Richard. *Consequences of Pragmatism: Essays, 1972-1980*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1982.
- ————. *Contingency, Irony, and Solidarity*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1989.
- ————. *Philosophy and Social Hope*. New York: Penguin, 1999.

See also:

- Brandom, Robert B., ed. *Rorty and His Critics*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2000.
- Saatkamp, Jr., Herman J., ed. *Rorty and Pragmatism: The Philosopher Responds to His Critics*. Nashville: Vanderbilt University Press, 1995.

### *Pragmatism, Aesthetics, and Literature*

A rich connection exists between pragmatism, aesthetics, and literature. From showing the intersections between the genealogies of American literature and philosophy, to elucidating the ways that pragmatism and the arts intersect, to suggesting that pragmatism involves living one's life as an aesthetic creation, scholars up to the present continue to find new ways in which the aesthetic and the pragmatic are intertwined.

- Dewey, John. *Art as Experience*. New York: Minton, Balch, 1934.
- Kadlec, David. *Mosaic Modernism: Anarchism, Pragmatism, Culture*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2000.
- Margolis, Joseph. *What, After All, Is a Work of Art?: Lectures in the Philosophy of Art*. University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 1999.
- Poirier, Richard. *Poetry and Pragmatism*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1992.
- Shusterman, Richard. *Pragmatist Aesthetics: Living Beauty, Rethinking Art*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2000.

### *Pragmatism and Feminism*

That there is a long history of connections between feminism and pragmatism should not surprise anyone. And yet, interest in the connections between them has not always been evident, and the recent books published on pragmatism and feminism suggest a renewed interest after a period of hibernation. The influence of Jane Addams in the development of pragmatism has proved to be a springboard for writers interested in the connections between pragmatism and feminism. Philosopher Charlotte Haddock Seigfried has done a great deal to develop this renewed interest, as evidenced by her two volumes included here.

- Lock, Margaret, and Patricia A. Kaufert ed. *Pragmatic Women and Body Politics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998.
- Seigfried, Charlene H., ed. *Feminist Interpretations of John Dewey*. University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2001.
- Seigfried, Charlene Haddock. *Pragmatism and Feminism: Reweaving the Social Fabric*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1996.
- Sullivan, Shannon. *Living Across and Through Skins: Transactional Bodies, Pragmatism, and Feminism*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2001.

### *Pragmatism, Democracy, and Global Politics*

At least since Dewey, pragmatism has been associated with democracy. More recently pragmatists have been making the case for the connection between pragmatism and respect for difference. Indeed, some scholars suggest that pragmatism provides a useful procedure for navigating the differences that increasingly confront us in our global world.

- Diggins, John Patrick. *The Promise of Pragmatism: Modernism and the Crisis of Knowledge and Authority*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1994.
- Gunn, Giles. *Beyond Solidarity: Pragmatism and Difference in a Globalized World*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2001.
- Joas, Hans. *The Genesis of Values*. Trans. Gregory Moore. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2000.
- Misak, Cheryl. *Truth, Politics, Morality: Pragmatism and Deliberation*. London: Routledge, 2000.
- Posner, Richard A, Michael J. Whincop, and Mary Keyes. *Policy and Pragmatism in the Conflict of Laws*. Burlington: Ashgate, 2001.