

Richard Kenneth Atkins

Contact Information

Boston College
Philosophy Department
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Academic Employment

Associate Professor, Boston College, 2019–Present
Assistant Professor, Boston College, 2014–2019
Visiting Assistant Professor, Iona College, 2013–2014
Lecturer, Gateway New York (affil. Telemark University, Norway), 2012–2014
Adjunct Assistant Professor, New York University, 2007–2013
Post-Doctoral Teaching Fellow, Fordham University, 2010–2012

Education

Ph.D., Philosophy, Fordham University, Bronx, NY, 2003–2010
M.Phil., Philosophy, Fordham University, Bronx, NY, 2003–2005
M.A., Theology, Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA, 2001–2003
B.A., Philosophy, Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL, 1996–1999

AOS: Pragmatism; Epistemology

AOC: Philosophy of Mind; Ethics; History of Philosophy; Philosophy of Language

Authored Books

- 2023 *Peirce on Inference: Validity, Strength, and the Community of Inquirers*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- 2018 *Charles S. Peirce's Phenomenology: Analysis and Consciousness*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- 2016 *Peirce and the Conduct of Life: Sentiment and Instinct in Ethics and Religion*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- 2015 *Puzzled?! An Introduction to Philosophizing*. Indianapolis: Hackett.

Co-Edited Book

- 2017 *Peirce on Perception and Reasoning: From Icons to Logic*. New York: Routledge (co-edited with Kathleen A. Hull).

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- 2023 "C.I. Lewis's Theory of Ideas: Royce's Problem and Lewis's Solution," *Journal of the American Philosophical Association*, doi:10.1017/apa.2023.15.
- 2023 with I.J. Handley-Miner, M. Pope, S.M. Jones-Jang, D.J. McKaughan, J. Philips, and L. Young. "The Intentions of Information Sources Can Affect What Information People Think Qualifies as True." *Scientific Reports*. 13:7718.
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-023-34806-4>

- 2023 "On Three Levels of Abstractness in Peirce's Beta Graphs," *History and Philosophy of Logic*, 44:1, 16–32.
- 2021 "Santayana, Commonsensism, and the Problem of Impervious Belief," *History of Philosophy Quarterly*, 38:1, 37–56.
- 2021 "A Peircean Examination of Gettier's Two Cases," *Synthese*, 199:5–6, 12945–12961.
- 2021 "Peirce, Sentimentalism, and Prison Reform," *Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society*, 57:2, 172–201.
- 2020 "Royce's *The Problem of Christianity* and Peirce's Epistemology," *American Journal of Theology and Philosophy*, 41:2–3, 39–55.
- 2018 "Santayana on Propositions," *Overheard in Seville: Bulletin of the George Santayana Society*, 36, 26–40.
- 2018 "Peirce on Truth as the Predestinate Opinion," *European Journal of Philosophy*, 26:1, 411–429.
- 2017 "Peirce, Muybridge, and the Moving Pictures of Thought," *Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society*, 53:4, 511–527.
- 2017 "Sensation, Nominalism, and the Elements of Experience," *Journal of Speculative Philosophy*, 31:4, 538–556.
- 2016 "Peirce on Facts and True Propositions," *British Journal for the History of Philosophy*, 24:6, 1176–1192.
- 2016 "Direct Inspection and Phaneroscopic Analysis," *Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society*, 52:1, 1–20.
- 2015 "Peirce's 'Paradoxical Irradiations' and James's *The Will to Believe*," *Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society*, 51:2, 173–200.
- 2015 "Peirce's Critique of Psychological Hedonism," *British Journal for the History of Philosophy*, 23:2, 349–367.
- 2014 "The Forgotten Science: Architectonics and Its Importance," *History of Philosophy Quarterly*, 31:4, 369–392.
- 2013 "Toward an Objective Phenomenological Vocabulary: How Seeing a Scarlet Red Is Like Hearing a Trumpet's Blare," *Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences*, 12:4, 837–858.
- 2013 "Broadening Peirce's Phaneroscopy: Part Two," *The Pluralist*, 8:1, 97–114.
- 2012 "A Guess at the Other Riddle: Peirce's Material Categories," *Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society*, 48:4, 530–557.
- 2012 "Broadening Peirce's Phaneroscopy: Part One," *The Pluralist*, 7:2, 1–29.
- 2011 "This Proposition Is Not True: C.S. Peirce and the Liar Paradox," *Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society*, 47:4, 421–444.
- 2010 "Pragmatic Scruples and the Correspondence Theory of Truth," *Dialogue*, 49:3, 365–380.
- 2010 "An 'Entirely Different Series of Categories': Peirce's Material Categories," *Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society*, 46:1, 94–110.
- 2008 "The Pleasures of Goodness: Peircean Aesthetics in Light of Kant's *Critique of the Power of Judgment*," *Cognitio*, 9:1, 13–25.
- 2006 "Restructuring the Sciences: Peirce's Categories and His Classifications of the Sciences," *Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society*, 42:4, 483–500.

Articles Invited, in Symposia, or in Edited Volumes

- TBD "C.S. Peirce and Josiah Royce." In *The Oxford Handbook of George Santayana*, ed. Ricardo Miguel Alfonso. New York: Oxford University Press, TBD
- TBD "Peirce's Formal and Material Categories in Phenomenology." In *The Oxford Handbook of Charles S. Peirce*, ed. Cornelis de Waal. New York: Oxford University Press, TBD.
- 2023 "Apology for an Average Believer: Wagered Belief and Information Environments." *Social Epistemology*. Special Issue on Expertise, Interactivity, and Semiotics. Charles Lassiter and Sarah Bro Trasmundi, eds. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02691728.2023.2263408>
- 2020 "The Peirce-Blake Correspondence," *Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society*, 56:2, 222–258.
- 2020 "Gestures and Propositions," *Blityri*, Special Issue on Peirce's Theory of the Proposition. Francesco Bellucci, ed. 9:2, 47–68.
- 2019 "An Exchange on Propositions and Truth" (with Glenn Tiller and Richard Rubin), *Overheard in Seville: Bulletin of the George Santayana Society*, 37, 146–160.
- 2019 "Semiotics and Phenomenality," *Journal of Mind and Behavior*, 40:1, 67–82.
- 2019 "Peirce on Facts, Propositions, and the Index," *Semiotica*, Special Issue on Peirce's Extended Theory of Signs. Frederik Stjernfelt and João Quieroz, eds. 228, 17–28.
- 2018 "Peirce's Modal Defense of Infant Baptism," *Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society*, Symposium on Charles S. Peirce and Religion, 54:4, 546–567.
- 2017 "Inferential Modeling of Percept Formation: Peirce's Fourth Cotary Proposition." In *Peirce on Perception and Reasoning: From Icons to Logic*. Kathleen Hull and Richard Kenneth Atkins, eds., New York: Routledge, 25–39.
- 2014 "Comparing Ideas: Comparational Analysis and Peirce's Phenomenology." In *The Peirce Quote Book*, Torkild Thellefsen and Bent Sørensen, eds., Berlin: De Gruyter Mouton, 624–631.
- 2014 "The Inferences That Never Were: Peirce, Perception, and Bernstein's *The Pragmatic Turn*." In *Richard J. Bernstein and the Pragmatist Turn in Contemporary Philosophy*, Judith Green, ed. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 55–67.

Book Reviews

- TBD "Review of Todd Lekan's *William James and the Moral Life*," *The Journal of the History of Philosophy*.
- TBD "Review of *The Correspondence of Charles S. Peirce and the Open Court Publishing Company, 1890–1913*. Ed. Stetson J. Robinson," *History of Philosophy of Science (HOPOS)*.
- 2023 "Review of Chris Voparil's *Reconstructing Pragmatism*," *The Journal of the History of Philosophy* 61:3, 530–531.
- 2019 "Review of Francesco Bellucci's *Peirce's Speculative Grammar*," *The Journal of the History of Philosophy*, 57:3, 563–564.
- 2017 "Review of J. Caleb Clanton's *Philosophy of Religion in the Classical American Tradition*." For *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*.
- 2016 "Review of Giovanni Maddalena's *The Philosophy of Gesture*," *Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society*, 52:4, 662–665.

- 2013 "Review of Mathew A. Foust's *Loyalty to Loyalty* and of Cornelis de Waal and Krzysztof Piotr Skowroński's (eds.) *The Normative Thought of Charles S. Peirce*," *The New England Quarterly*, 86:4, 719–723.

Presentations (* denotes invited)

- 2023 "Pragmatism as a Theory of Ideas," Senior Capstone/ Colloquium Series Speaker, University of Maine, Orono.*
- 2023 "Peirce and Zetetic Epistemology," American Philosophical Association, Invited Program, Denver, CO.*
- 2023 "Royce's Correspondence Theory of Truth," American Philosophical Association, Meeting of the Josiah Royce Society, Montreal, QC, Canada.
- 2022 "Deliberative Democracy and the Problem of Belief Fixation in Engineered Information Environments," Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy, Winter Park, FL.
- 2020 "Three Levels of Abstractness in Peirce's Beta Graphs," American Philosophical Association, Meeting of the Charles S. Peirce Society, Philadelphia, PA.*
- 2019 "Royce's *The Problem of Christianity* and Peirce's Epistemology," 2019 Douglas MacDonald Conference, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN.
- 2019 "A Defense of Inclusive, Deliberative Democracy Based on Peirce's Sentimental Conservatism," Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy, Columbus, OH.
- 2018 "Sentiment, Conscience, and Transcendental Experience: From American Transcendentalism to Pragmatism," American Academy of Religion, Panel on the Peircean Theology of Donald L. Gelpi, S.J., Denver, CO*
- 2018 "Peirce's Religious Ethos: The Case of Prison Reform," Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy, Indianapolis, IN
- 2018 "Santayana on Propositions," American Philosophical Association, Meeting of the George Santayana Society, Savannah, GA*
- 2017 "Peirce's Modal Defense of Infant Baptism," American Academy of Religion, Panel on C.S. Peirce and the Study of Religion, Boston, MA*
- 2017 "Gestures and Propositions," Tenth Anniversary of Associazione Pragma, Milan, Italy*
- 2017 "How to Conceive of God: Reflections on Peirce's Scientific Metaphysics," The Philosophical Society at Boston College*
- 2017 "Royceanizing Peirce's Normative Sciences," Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy, Josiah Royce Society Session, Birmingham, AL
- 2015 "Peirce's 'A Neglected Argument for the Reality of God' and the Rational Acceptability of Religious Belief," Saint Anselm College Philosophy Colloquium*
- 2015 "Facts and True Propositions," New England Pragmatists Forum Inaugural Meeting*
- 2015 "The New Sense, The Experience of Nature, and God's Providence," Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy
- 2014 "Geometrical Optical Illusions and Peirce's 'Fourth' Cotary Proposition," The Charles S. Peirce International Centennial Congress
- 2014 "Can Perceptions Justify Beliefs? Peirce's Prescient Reply to Davidson," The Charles S. Peirce International Centennial Congress
- 2014 "Sensation and the Elements of Experience," New York Pragmatists Forum*
- 2013 "Perception and Passivity," Central APA

- 2012 "Truth in the Analytic Grade: Disquotation and Representation," Truth, Morality, Democracy Conference, St. Andrews, Scotland
- 2011 "This Proposition is Not True: C.S. Peirce and the Liar Paradox," Pacific APA
- 2011 "Perceptual Normativity and Accuracy," Central APA
- 2010 "Peirce and the Liar Paradox," New York Pragmatists Forum*
- 2009 "Phaneroscopy's Sub-Disciplines," 12th International Meeting on Pragmatism, São Paulo, Brazil
- 2009 "Peirce's Material Categories," New York Pragmatists Forum*
- 2007 "Comments on Pratt and Kellogg," Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy

Panels Organized

- 2023 "Inquiry and Ethics," American Philosophical Association, Central Division
- 2022 "Author Meets Critics: James Liszka's *Charles Peirce on Ethics, Esthetics, and the Normative Sciences*," American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division
- 2021 "Peirce and Democracy," Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy
- 2020 "Peirce's Logic," American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division
- 2019 "Peirce and Issues in Contemporary Philosophy," American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division
- 2018 "The Peircean Theology of Donald L. Gelpi, S.J.," American Academy of Religion
- 2018 "Author Meets Critics: Cheryl Misak's *Cambridge Pragmatism*," American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division (organized with Robert B. Talisse and Diana Heney)
- 2015 "Nature and the Authentication of Religious Belief," Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy
- 2014 "The Charles S. Peirce Society," Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy (organized with Daniel Campos)

Prizes

- 2010 Charles S. Peirce Essay Contest for "This Proposition Is Not True: C.S. Peirce and the Liar Paradox"

Peer-Reviewer For

British Journal for the History of Philosophy
Cambridge University Press
Dialogue: Canadian Philosophical Review
Erkenntnis
European Journal of Philosophy
European Journal of Pragmatism and American Philosophy
History of Philosophy Quarterly
HOPOS (History of Philosophy of Science)
The Journal for Aesthetics and Art Criticism
Journal for Experimental and Theoretical Artificial Intelligence
Journal of Applied Non-Classical Logics
Journal of the History of Philosophy
Logique et Analyse
National Science Foundation

Palgrave MacMillan
Philosophia
The Pluralist
The Review of Politics
Revista Teorema
Routledge
Semiotica
Synthese
Theoforum
Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society
University of Chicago Press

Courses Taught

Pragmatism: Advanced Graduate Seminar
Inductive Logic: Upper-level undergrad course
Symbolic Logic: Grad/ undergrad course on symbolic logic
Logical Diagrams and Iconic Logic: Boston College: Grad/ undergrad course on the use of diagrams in reasoning
Peirce and James: Boston College: Graduate seminar
Epistemology: Boston College: Advanced undergraduate course surveying issues in contemporary epistemology
Truth and Pragmatism: Boston College: Grad/ undergrad course surveying theories of truth, paying special attention to the pragmatic theory of truth
Charles S. Peirce: Boston College: Grad/ undergrad course on Charles S. Peirce
American Philosophy: Boston College: Upper-level undergrad course on American philosophy
Puzzles and Paradoxes: Boston College: An undergrad course on puzzling philosophical arguments
Perspectives: Boston College: Two-semester history of philosophy and theology from Plato to today
Philosophical Ethics: Fordham University: Introduction to ethics
Philosophy of Human Nature: Fordham University: Introduction to philosophy, excluding ethics
Social Foundations I–III: New York University: Three-semester history of philosophy from the Pre-Socratics to today
Moral Philosophy: Iona College: Introduction to ethics
Introduction to Philosophy: Iona College: Introduction to philosophy, excluding ethics
Examen Philosophicum: Gateway New York: Introduction to philosophy, including ethics

Directed Readings and Research Seminars

Pragmatism and Ethics
Testimony
Skepticism
Epistemic Injustice
Symbolic Logic
Inductive Logic and Formal Epistemology
Memory
Vagueness
Charles S. Peirce
James and Evidentialism
Santayana

Service

Local Host for Conference, Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy, 2024
Morrissey College Graduate Student Emergency Fund Committee Member, 2023–Present
Director of Graduate Studies, Boston College, 2021–Present
At-Large Representative, Josiah Royce Society, 2022–2023
Chair Advisory Committee, Boston College, November 2015–Present
Executive Director (formerly: Secretary-Treasurer), Charles S. Peirce Society, 2016–2023
Senior Thesis Director, Boston College, 2018, 2022, 2023
Placement Director, Boston College, 2019–2020
Graduate Committee, Elected Member, Boston College, 2017–2020
Charles S. Peirce Monument Fundraising Committee, 2017–2018
Co-founder, New England Pragmatists Forum, 2015
Informational Session on Publishing Essays, Boston College, April 13, 2015
Executive Committee, Elected Member, Charles S. Peirce Society, 2012–2016
Ad Hoc Constitution Committee, Chair, Charles S. Peirce Society, 2014
Service Learning Program Faculty Partner, Fordham, Spring 2011, 2007–2008
Dissertation Colloquium Organizer, Fordham, Spring 2009–Spring 2010
Fordham Philosophical Society Symposium Committee Member, Fordham, 2006–2009