

*Call for Papers*

**Women, Pragmatism, and the Psychological Sciences**

A special issue of the *Journal of the History of the Behavioral Sciences*

Special Issue Guest Editors: Michela Bella (University of Molise, Italy) and Francesca Bordogna (University of Notre Dame, US)

A large number of scholars in the last several decades have deepened our understanding of the origins and goals of classical American pragmatism and European versions of the philosophy by unearthing pragmatism's complex links with science. To give only a few unsystematic examples works in philosophy<sup>1</sup>, intellectual history<sup>2</sup>, the history of science,<sup>3</sup> art history<sup>4</sup>, religious studies, and literary studies<sup>5</sup> have shown the fruitfulness of looking into the ways pragmatists not only participated in the vivid debates of the time about the nature of the relationships between philosophy and the sciences, but also drew from and helped shape psychological, biological, physiological, sociological, historical, logical and mathematical theories, methods, and practices.

Overall, pragmatism significantly contributed to a scientifically renewed and psychologically informed understanding of philosophy. Concentrating on the period between the early 1880s and the 1920s, this special issue builds upon and extends such discussions by exploring how American and European women directly or indirectly influenced by pragmatism created, refined, revised, challenged, and used pragmatism by thickening and further developing its interactions with the sciences, especially psychology.

The special issue intersects a rich literature on pragmatism, women, and feminism. Charlene H. Seigfried, the scholar who inaugurated research work on pragmatism and

---

<sup>1</sup> See for example, Kuklick (1977, 2002); Myers (1986); Hacking (1988); Seigfried (1990); Haack (1993); Girel (2003, 2021); Madelrieux (2008); Klein (2009, 2023); Franzese and Kraemer (2007); Franzese (2008); Pihlström (2009); Maddalena (2015); Calcaterra (2016); Ambrosio (2016); Kasser (2016); McGranahan (2017); Baggio, Parravicini (2019); Bella (2019); Brioschi (2020); Dreon (2022).

<sup>2</sup> For example, see Hollinger (1985, 1996, Ch. 3); Croce (1986, 2017); Kloppenberg (1987); Proudfoot (2004); Richardson (2006); Koopman (2009); Viola, Gronda (2016); Fischer (2019), McGrath (2020).

<sup>3</sup> Richards (1987); Danziger (1990); Rice (2000); Watson (2006); Bordogna (2008, 2022); Leary (2009, 2018); Huebner (2014); Green (2018); Trochu (2018); Pearce (2020); Cristalli (2022).

<sup>4</sup> On connections with art history, see Reilly (2000); Veder (2015).

<sup>5</sup> On connections with religion see, e.g., Lamberth (1999) and Proudfoot (2004). See Levin (1999), Poirier (1999), and Schoenbach (2011) on pragmatism and literature.

feminism, argued that pragmatism is endowed with an inclusive and feminine style of thinking that emotionally and intellectually resonates with a more integral, practical, and collaborative way of doing research (Seigfried, 1991). Building on her work and other important scholarship on the history of women, feminism, and pragmatism in the social sciences<sup>6</sup>, we invite contributors to consider the following: 1) Why did pragmatism prove attractive to women in the period under consideration? and 2) which aspects of pragmatism and its interminglings with psychology (and eventually other sciences) did American and European women use to address theoretical and practical problems, such as creating a psychology of literature, providing a psychological basis for the social sciences, enlarging the scope of logics, or negotiating professional and family dynamics?

We aim to expand the historiography on women in pragmatism by inviting contributions both on American and European women who, in historian Sarah Igo's words, belonged to "disciplinary and expert communities," (Igo, 2017) and women who did not: academic and non-academic philosophers and scientists, rhetoricians, politicians, architects, visual artists, writers, and political activists. We are especially interested in contributions that excavate not only how women made pragmatism into an object of inquiry but also used it as an instrument of knowing and doing, as a tool for interpreting and navigating their experiences and addressing problems of everyday life. We welcome papers asking historical questions from a wide range of approaches, including, among others, the history of psychology, the history of the philosophy of science, and art history, and essays informed by other disciplinary commitments, such as sociological and philosophical ones. Women's ideas, stories, lived experiences, and social and political backgrounds still need to find their rightful place not only in the genealogy of pragmatism but also in the scientific and cultural fields they contributed to developing.

Expressions of interest can be emailed as soon as possible, but before July 1<sup>st</sup> 2023, directly to the guest editors (michela.bella[at]unimol.it ; fbordog1[at]nd.edu), and should include a brief (no more than 250 word) description of the proposed paper. Authors whose proposals are invited to move forward should then aim to submit a 10,000–13,000 word paper, including references. Papers should be original research works, i.e. not previously published in other formats or venues. Full submissions must be received by **15 May 2024**, and must be uploaded electronically using the Research Exchange platform, available at the JHBS website: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/page/journal/15206696/homepage/forauthors.html?&F>

The submitting author will be prompted to indicate that this submission is for the special issue "Women, Pragmatism, and the Psychological Sciences." All submissions should follow the format outlined in the journal's [Author Guidelines](#). All submissions will be peer-

---

<sup>6</sup> Rossiter (1982); Scarborough, Furumoto (1987); Gordon (1990); Waithe (1991); Rooney (1993); Seigfried (1993, 1996 and 2001); Green (1999); McKenna (2001); Sullivan (2001); Whipps (2004 and 2019); Meyers (2005); Rogers (2009, 2020 and 2021); Janack (2010); Dieleman (2012); Hamington, Bardwell-Jones (2012); Fisher (2014); McKenna, Pratt (2015); Tarver, Sullivan (2015); Rutherford, Milar (2017); Miras Boronat (2019); Lake (2020); McBride, McKenna (2022); Miras Boronat, Bella (2022); Shields et al. (2022).

reviewed per the standard procedures of the journal. Accepted manuscripts will be published on-line on a rolling basis. We anticipate that the special issue will appear as the Summer, 2025 issue of the journal.

## References

- Ambrosio, Chiara (2016). "Composite Photographs and the Quest for Generality: Themes from Peirce and Galton," *Critical Inquiry* 42 (3):547-579.
- Baggio, Guido and Andrea Parravicini eds. (2019). "Pragmatism and Theories of Emergence," *European Journal of Pragmatism and American Philosophy* [Online], XI-2.
- Bella, Michela (2019). *Ontology after Philosophical Psychology. The Continuity of Consciousness in William James's Philosophy of Mind*. Lanham: Lexington.
- Bordogna, Francesca (2008). *William James at the Boundaries*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Bordogna, Francesca (2022). "James and Math: on Infinite Totalities," *Oxford Handbook of William James*, Alex Klein ed., New York: Oxford University Press.
- Brioschi, Maria Regina (2020). *Creativity Between Experience and Cosmos: C.S. Peirce and A.N. Whitehead on Novelty*., München: Verlag Karl Alber.
- Calcaterra, Rosa M. (2016). "Constructing on contingency: William James from biology to ethics and politics," *Cognitio: Revista de Filosofia*, 16(2):219-232.
- Cristalli, Claudia (2022). "Unconscious inferences in perception in early experimental psychology: From Wundt to Peirce," *Journal of The History of the Behavioral Sciences* 58(4): 432-448.
- Croce, Paul (1995). *Science and Religion in the Era of William James*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press.
- Croce, Paul (2017). *Young William James Thinking*, Baltimore: John Hopkins University Press.
- Danziger, Kurt (1990). *Constructing the Subject: Historical Origins of Psychological Research*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Dieleman, Susan (2012). "Solving the Problem of Epistemic Exclusion: A Pragmatist-Feminist Approach," in Hamington and Bardwell-Jones, 90–114.
- Dreon, Roberta (2022). *Human Landscapes. Contributions to a Pragmatist Anthropology*. Albany: SUNY.
- Fischer, Clara (2014). *Gendered Readings of Change: A Feminist-Pragmatist Approach*, New York: Palgrave MacMillan.
- Fischer, Marilyn (2019). *Jane Addam's Evolutionary Theorizing. Constructing "Democracy and Social Ethics,"* Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.
- Franzese, Sergio (2008). *The Ethics of Energy: William James's Moral Philosophy in Focus*. Frankfurt: Ontos Verlag.
- Franzese, Sergio and Felicitas Kraemer (2007). *Fringes of Religious Experience. Cross-perspectives on William James's The Varieties of Religious Experience*. Frankfurt: Ontos Verlag.
- Girel, Mathias (2003). "The Metaphysics and Logic of Psychology: Peirce's Reading of James's Principles," *Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society* 39 (2):163-203.

- Girel, Mathias (2021). *L'esprit en act. Psychologie, mythologies et pratique chez les pragmatistes*. Paris: Vrin.
- Gordon, Lynn (1990). *Gender and Education in the Progressive Era*, New Haven: Yale University Press.
- Green, Christopher D. (2018). *Psychology and Its Cities. A New History of Early American Psychology*. New York: Routledge.
- Green, Judith M. (1999). *Deep Democracy: Community, Diversity and Transformation*, Lanham, MA: Rowman and Littlefield Publishers.
- Haack, Susan (1993). *Evidence and Inquiry*. Oxford: Blackwell.
- Hacking, Ian (1988). "Telepathy: Origins of Randomization in Experimental Design", *Isis* 79:427-451.
- Hamington, Maurice and Celia Bardwell-Jones eds. (2012) *Contemporary Feminist Pragmatism*, New York: Routledge.
- Hollinger, A. David (1985). *In the American Province: Studies on the History and Historiography of Ideas*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.
- Hollinger, A. David (1996). *Science, Jews, and Secular Culture. Studies in Mid-Twentieth Century American Intellectual History*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press.
- Huebner, Daniel (2014). *Becoming Mead. The Social Process of Academic Knowledge*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.
- Igo, Sarah (2017). "Toward a Free-Range Intellectual History," in *The Worlds of American Intellectual History*, ed. by Joel Isaac, James T. Kloppenberg, Michael O'Brien, and Jennifer Ratner-Rosenhagen, New York: Oxford University Press, 2017, 224-342)
- Janack, Marianne ed. (2010). *Feminist Interpretations of Richard Rorty*, Penn State University Press.
- Kasser, Jeff (2016). "Two Conceptions of Weight of Evidence in Peirce's Illustrations of the Logic of Science," *Erkenntnis* 81 (3): 629-648.
- Klein, Alexander (2009). "On Hume on Space: Green's attack, James's empirical response," *Journal of the History of Philosophy* 47 (3):415-449.
- Klein, Alexander (forthcoming in 2023). *Consciousness is Motor: Warp and Weft in William James*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Kloppenberg, James T. (1986). *Uncertain Victory: Social Democracy and Progressivism in European and American Thought, 1870-1920*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Kuklick, Bruce (1977). *The Rise of American Philosophy: Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1860-1930*. New Haven: Yale University Press.
- Kuklick, Bruce (2002). *Philosophy in America*. Oxford: Clarendon Press.
- Lake, Danielle (2020). "Pragmatist Feminism as Philosophic Activism: The {R}evolution of Grace Lee Boggs," *The Pluralist*, 15(1): 25-45.
- Lamberth, David (1999). *William James and the Metaphysics of Experience* Cambridge, MA: Cambridge University Press.
- Leary, David E. (2009). "Between Peirce (1878) and James (1898): G. Stanley Hall, the origins of pragmatism, and the history of psychology," *Journal of the History of the Behavioral Sciences*, 45 (1):5-20.

- Leary, David E. (2018). *The Routledge Guidebook to James's Principles of Psychology*. London and New York: Routledge.
- Levin, Jonathan (1999). *The Poetics of Transition. Emerson, Pragmatism, and American Literary Modernism*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.
- Lowe, Barbara (2019). "The Right to Belong and Immigration: A Feminist Pragmatist Analysis," *Contemporary Pragmatism*, 16 (2–3): 268–285.
- Maddalena, Giovanni (2015). *The Philosophy of Gesture*, Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press.
- Madelrieux, Stéphane (2008). *William James. L'attitude empiriste*. Paris: PUF.
- McBride III, Lee A., and Erin McKenna eds. (2022). *Pragmatist Feminism and the Work of Charlene Haddock Seigfried*, New York: Bloomsbury Academic.
- McGranahan, Lucas (2017). *Darwinism and Pragmatism. William James on Evolution and Self-Transformation*. London: Routledge.
- McGrath, Larry (2020). *Making Spirit Matter*, Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press.
- McKenna, Erin (2001). *The Task of Utopia: A Pragmatist and Feminist Perspective*, Lanham, MA: Rowman and Littlefield Publishers.
- McKenna, Erin and Scott L. Pratt (2015). *American philosophy: From Wounded Knee to the present*. New York: Bloomsbury Press.
- Meyers, Diana T. (2005). "Women Philosophers, Sidelined Challenges, and Professional Philosophy," *Hypatia*, 20(3), 149-152.
- Miras Boronat, Núria Sara (2019). "Peace, Bread, and Ideas for a Cosmopolitan World: Addams' Unknown Pragmatist Legacy Today," in K. P. Skowronski and S. Philström (eds.), *Pragmatism, Kant and Kantianism in the Twenty-first Century* (Helsinki: Nordic Studies in Pragmatism), Volume 4, 307–326.
- Miras Boronat, Núria Sara and Michela Bella eds. (2022). *Women in Pragmatism: Past, Present and Future* (Cham: Springer).
- Myers, Gerald E. (1986). *William James: His Life and Thought*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.
- Pearce, Trevor (2020). *Pragmatism's Evolution: Organism and Environment in American Philosophy*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.
- Pihlström, Sami (2009). "Pragmatism and Naturalized Transcendental Subjectivity." *Contemporary Pragmatism* 6 (1):1-13.
- Poirier, Richard (1999). *Why Do Pragmatists Want to Be Like Poets? in The Revival of Pragmatism. New Essays on Social Thought, Law, and Culture*, Morris Dickstein ed. Durham and London: Duke University Press.
- Posnock, Ross (1991). *The Trial of Curiosity: Henry James, William James, and the Challenge of Modernity*, New York: Oxford University Press
- Proudfoot, Wayne (2004). *William James and a Science of Religion*. New York: Columbia University Press.
- Reilly, Eliza J. (2000). "Concrete Possibilities: William James and the European Avant-Garde," *Streams of William James*, 2 (3): 22-29.
- Rice, Charles E. (2000). "History of psychology 1900–2000: Uncertain Genesis." *American Psychologist*, 55(5), 488–491.

- Richards, Robert J. (1987). *Darwin and the Emergence of Evolutionary Theories of Mind and Behavior*, Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.
- Richardson, Robert D. (2006). *William James in the Maelstrom of American Modernism: A Biography*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin.
- Rieber, Robert W. and Kurt Salzinger (1998). *Psychology: Theoretical-historical perspectives* (2nd ed.). American Psychological Association.
- Rogers, Dorothy G. (2009). "The Other Philosophy Club: America's First Academic Women Philosophers," *Hypatia*, 24 (2), 164-185.
- Rogers, Dorothy G. (2020). *Women Philosophers: Education and Activism in Nineteenth-Century America*, Bloomsbury Academics.
- Rogers, Dorothy G. (2021). *Women Philosophers: Entering Academia in Nineteenth-Century America*, Bloomsbury Academics.
- Rooney, Phyllis (1993). "Feminist-Pragmatist Revisionings of Reason, Knowledge, and Philosophy," *Hypatia*, 8(2): 15–37.
- Rossiter, Margaret W. (1982). "Doctorates for American Women, 1868-1907," *History of Education Quarterly*, 22(2), 159-183.
- Rutherford, Alexandra and Katharine Milar (2017). "'The difference being a woman made' Untold Lives in personal and intellectual context," *Journal of the History of the Behavioral Sciences* 2017, 53: 221– 227.
- Scarborough, Elizabeth and Laurel Furumoto (1987). *Untold lives: The first generation of American women psychologists*, Columbia University Press.
- Schoenbach, Lisi (2011). *Pragmatic Modernism*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Seigfried, Charlene H. (1990). *William James's Radical Reconstruction of Philosophy*. Albany: SUNY.
- Seigfried, Charlene H. (1991). "Where Are All the Pragmatist Feminists?," *Hypatia* 6 (2):1 - 20.
- Seigfried, Charlene H. (1993). Special issue: Feminism and pragmatism. *Hypatia*, 8 (2).
- Seigfried, Charlene H. (1996). *Pragmatism and Feminism*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press
- Seigfried, Charlene H. (2001). *Feminist Interpretations of John Dewey*, University Park, PA: Pennsylvania State University Press.
- Shields, Patricia M., Maurice Hamington, and Joseph Soeters eds. (2022), *The Oxford Handbook of Jane Addams*. Oxford University Press.
- Sullivan, Shannon (2001). *Living Across and Through Skins: Transactional Bodies, Pragmatism and Feminism*, Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press.
- Tarver, Erin C., and Shannon Sullivan eds. (2015). *Feminist Interpretations of William James*, University Park, PA: The Pennsylvania State University Press.
- Trochu, Thibaud (2018). *William James. Une autre histoire de la psychologie*, Paris, CNRS éditions.
- Veder, Robin (2015). *The Living Line. Modern Art and the Economy of Energy*, Dartmouth: Dartmouth College Press.
- Viola, Tullio and Roberto Gronda eds. (2016). "Pragmatism and the Writing of History," *European Journal of Pragmatism and American Philosophy* [Online], VIII-2.

Waithe, Mary Ellen ed. (1991). *A History of Women Philosophers*, vol 3. Dordrecht: Springer.

Watson, Cecelia A. (2004). "The Sartorial Self: William James's Philosophy of Dress," *History of Psychology*: Vol. 7, n. 3:221-224.

Whipps, Judy (2004). "Jane Addams's Social Thought as a Model for a Pragmatist-Feminist Communitarianism," *Hypatia*, 19(3): 118–133.

Whipps, Judy (2019) "Dewey, Addams and Design Thinking: Pragmatist Feminist Innovation and Design Thinking: Pragmatist Feminist Innovation for Democratic Change," *Oxford Handbook of Dewey*, Steven Fesmire (ed.), Oxford: Oxford University Press, 313–334.