

# Richard Kenneth Atkins

## **Contact Information**

Boston College  
Philosophy Department  
Stokes Hall, N223  
140 Commonwealth Avenue  
Chestnut Hill, MA 02467  
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## **Academic Employment**

Professor, Boston College, 2024–Present  
Associate Professor, Boston College, 2019–2024  
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**

- TBD with T. Starling Reid. "Existential Import and Peirce's Early Realism about Universals: The True Gorgias," *British Journal for the History of Philosophy*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/09608788.2024.2404442>
- 2023 "C.I. Lewis's Theory of Ideas: Royce's Problem and Lewis's Solution," *Journal of the American Philosophical Association*, 10:3, 637–654.

- 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 "Pragmatism and Ignorance." *Pragmatism Revisited*. Robert Lane, ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, TBD.
- TBD "C.S. Peirce and Josiah Royce." In *The Oxford Handbook of George Santayana*. Ricardo Miguel Alfonso, ed. New York: Oxford University Press, TBD
- 2024 "Continuity and the Living Present: Husserl and Peirce on Time Consciousness." In *Phenomenology and Phaneroscopy: A Neglected Chapter in the History of Ideas*. Ahti-Veikko Pietarinen and Mohammad Shafiei, eds. Cham, Switzerland: Springer, 189–206.
- 2024 "Validity and Induction: Some Comments on T.L Short's *Charles Peirce and Modern Science*." *Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society*, 59:4, 404–415.
- 2024 "Peirce's Formal and Material Categories in Phenomenology." In *The Oxford Handbook of Charles S. Peirce*. Cornelis de Waal, ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 61–76.
- 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. 38:1, 110–118.
- 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.

### **Interview**

- 2024 "Stakhanovite Philosophers' Workbench: Atkins and Lassiter, Relentless Adjuncting, Existential Graphs, and Non-Rejection." Interview by Nathan Ballantyne. <https://www.the-workbench.ca/interviews/stakhanovite-philosophers-workbench-atkins-and-lassiter/>

## **Book Reviews**

- 2024 "Review of Todd Lekan's *William James and the Moral Life*," *The Journal of the History of Philosophy*, 62:4, 671–672.
- 2024 "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)*, 14:1, 219–222.
- 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)**

- 2025 "Knowledge in a World of Chance," Rukavina Lecture, Gonzaga University, Spokane, WA.\*
- 2025 "Replies to Commentators," American Philosophical Association, Session of the Charles S. Peirce Society, San Francisco, CA.\*
- 2025 "Pragmatism as a Theory of Ideas," Department Seminar, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA.\*
- 2025 "Workshop on C.S. Peirce," ETH Zürich, Switzerland.\*
- 2024 "Santayana and C.I. Lewis's Critique of Animal Faith," World Congress of Philosophy, Rome, Italy.\*
- 2023 "Pragmatism as a Theory of Ideas," Senior Capstone/ Colloquium Series Speaker, University of Maine, Orono.\*
- 2023 "Peirce and Zetetic Epistemology," American Philosophical Association, Session of the Charles S. Peirce Society, Denver, CO.\*
- 2023 "Royce's Correspondence Theory of Truth," American Philosophical Association, Session 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, Session 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, Session 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, Chestnut Hill, MA.\*
- 2017 "Royceanizing Peirce's Normative Sciences," Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy, Session of the Josiah Royce Society, 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, Manchester, NH.\*
- 2015 "Facts and True Propositions," New England Pragmatists Forum Inaugural Meeting, Green Mountain, VT.\*
- 2015 "The New Sense, The Experience of Nature, and God's Providence," Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy, Grand Rapids, MI.
- 2014 "Geometrical Optical Illusions and Peirce's 'Fourth' Cotary Proposition," The Charles S. Peirce International Centennial Congress, Lowell, MA.
- 2014 "Can Perceptions Justify Beliefs? Peirce's Prescient Reply to Davidson," The Charles S. Peirce International Centennial Congress, Lowell, MA.
- 2014 "Sensation and the Elements of Experience," New York Pragmatists Forum, New York, NY.\*
- 2013 "Perception and Passivity," American Philosophical Association, Main Program, New Orleans, LA.\*
- 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," American Philosophical Association, Session of the Charles S. Peirce Society, San Diego, CA.\*
- 2011 "Perceptual Normativity and Accuracy," American Philosophical Association, Mina Program, Minneapolis, MN.
- 2010 "Peirce and the Liar Paradox," New York Pragmatists Forum, New York, NY\*
- 2009 "Phaneroscopy's Sub-Disciplines," 12th International Meeting on Pragmatism, São Paulo, Brazil.
- 2009 "Peirce's Material Categories," New York Pragmatists Forum, New York, NY.\*
- 2007 "Comments on Pratt and Kellogg," Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy, Columbia, SC.

### **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**

Assistant Chair, Philosophy Department, Boston College, 2024–Present  
AI Policy Ad Hoc Committee Member, Boston College Philosophy Department, 2024–25  
Vice-President and President Elect, Josiah Royce Society, 2024–Present  
Annual Conference Local Host, Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy, 2024  
Morrissey College Graduate Student Emergency Fund Committee Member, 2023–Present  
Director of Graduate Studies, Boston College, 2021–2024  
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