



Lecture • Thursday, April 4, 2024 • Noon

Juan Manuel Saharrea, “The Experimentalist Approach in Dewey’s Theory of Democratic Education”

According to Gert Biesta, Dewey does not offer a theory of democratic education but a general approach to socialization. This paper questions his conclusion through a two-fold strategy. On the one hand, it points out that Biesta’s analysis assumes two dichotomies that do not fit Dewey’s philosophy: an empirical vs normative theory and a theory of socialization vs schooling. On the other hand, even when Biesta’s criticism of *Democracy and Education* is appealing, it does not do justice to 1) other

educational texts or 2) other areas of Dewey philosophy. Biesta’s interpretation represents a way of reading Dewey’s educational theory without taking into consideration seriously the larger project in which Dewey’s educational reflections are presented.

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Center for Dewey Studies • Morris Library Basement, Room 0044



Center for Dewey Studies Lunchtime Talks

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The Center for Dewey Studies is the home of research, publishing, and outreach focused on the life, work, and legacy of the American philosopher and educator John Dewey. Our Lunchtime Talks feature speakers researching Dewey and related thinkers, work in the pragmatist tradition, and work in a broadly Deweyan spirit.