



Lecture • Tuesday, March 4, 2025 • 11:00am

Fergus Selsdon Games, “The Peril of Stability: Dewey in 1960s Educational Thought”

The 1960s. Tumult. Transformation. Responding to the most traumatic shock to American life in a generation, educational thinkers asked searching questions about the meaning and purpose of education itself. The place of John Dewey’s progressive education tradition within these debates was paramount. Educators across the political spectrum conceived of Dewey’s thought – both explicitly and implicitly – as a vector through which one forged the future. This talk focuses on three pedagogical voices: grassroots conservatives, campus New Leftists and African American progressives. Each of these voices came to dramatically different conclusions about the meaning of Dewey’s thought - and by extension, the possibilities of American education.

Fergus Selsdon Games is a history PHD at the University of Cambridge. His research considers Dewey’s reception within the history of educational thought. He was previously a British Council Fellow at the Kluge Center, Library of Congress. He has presented his work internationally, including at the society for U.S. Intellectual history.

Center for Dewey Studies • Morris Library Basement, Room 0044



Center for Dewey Studies Lunchtime Talks

<http://deweycenter.siu.edu>

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.



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