



Lecture
Friday, April 18, 2025
11:00am

Matthew J. Brown

“What is *Pragmatist* About the New ‘Pragmatist’ Philosophy of Science?”

Philosophical pragmatism has been enjoying a renaissance in philosophy of science. Brown will bring this recent work into conversation with classical pragmatism to explore the question: What makes a philosophy of science *pragmatist*? The recent work is in some respects more faithful to the classical pragmatist tradition than earlier appropriations of pragmatism, but it also differs in emphasis in ways that are problematic. Brown does not argue that there is some single, essential character of philosophical pragmatism, nor does he try to sort the “true pragmatists” from the pretenders. Rather, he will attempt to articulate the value of the new pragmatist philosophy of science while also indicating valuable resources from the pragmatist tradition that have yet to receive their proper due, particularly concerning the interplay of science and values.



Matthew J. Brown is the Jo Ann and Donald N. Boydston Chair of American Philosophy and Director of the Center for Dewey Studies at SIU. His research areas include the history of 19th and 20th century philosophy and the history and philosophy of science. He is the author of Science and Moral Imagination: A New Ideal for Values in Science (2020) and is currently editor-in-chief of HOPOS: The Journal of the International Society for the History of Philosophy of Science.

Center for Dewey Studies • Morris Library Basement, Room 0044

Center for Dewey Studies Lunchtime Talks

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