



Lecture • Thursday, November 7, 2024 • 1:00pm

Roger Ward, “Dewey, Meliorism and the Task of Community”

Jane Addams had a famously significant impact on John Dewey’s philosophy, contributing to his move from idealism to naturalism. Dewey crucially adopts Addams’s notion of a community as a means of melioristic improvement. What I focus on in this talk, however, are the differences that appear in Dewey’s more instrumental approach to community and reliance on voluntarism as the main motivating force. I propose that Dewey’s approach to the means of community is a key differentiating feature to Addams’s sense of a community as a source or object of calling or obligation.



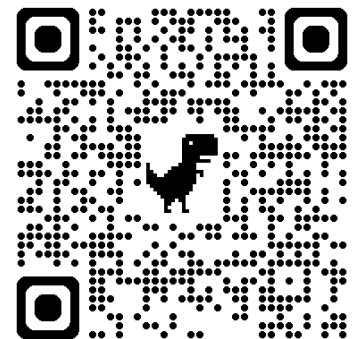
Roger Ward is Professor of Philosophy at Georgetown College and Editor-in-Chief of The Pluralist, the official journal of the Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy. He is the author of Conversion in American Philosophy (2004) and Peirce and Religion (2018).

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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