

JOHN CAPPS

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EMPLOYMENT

2015- *Professor*
2022-2023 *Interim Program Director, Department of Philosophy*
2011-2014 *Chair, Department of Philosophy*
2008-2010 *Senior Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts*
2007-2008 *Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts*
2006-2015 *Associate Professor*
2000-2006 *Assistant Professor, Rochester Institute of Technology*
1998-2000 *Assistant Professor, University of North Florida*
1998 *Visiting Assistant Professor, College of Charleston*

AREAS

AOS Epistemology, American Philosophy
AOC Logic, History of Philosophy (especially 20th century Anglo-American)

EDUCATION

1997 Northwestern University: Ph.D in Philosophy
Dissertation: *Context and Inquiry: Justification in Naturalized Epistemology*
Committee: Thomas Ryckman, Arthur Fine, Michael Williams
1994 Northwestern University: MA in Philosophy
1991 St. John's College, Annapolis: BA

PUBLICATIONS

Articles and Book Chapters

1. Forthcoming. Truth and the future. *Think*.
2. 2024. Epistemology, logic, and inquiry. In Sami Pihlström (Ed.), *The Bloomsbury Handbook of Pragmatism*. London: Bloomsbury.

3. 2024. Responsible other-fashioning: Comments on Todd Lekan's *William James and the Moral Life*. *William James Studies* 19: 59-67.
4. 2023. James and Waismann on temperament in philosophy. *The Pluralist*, 18: 46-65.
5. 2023/2019. The pragmatic theory of truth. *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/truth-pragmatic/>
6. 2022. Pragmatism about truth-makers, *Contemporary Pragmatism*, 19: 350-370. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1163/18758185-bja10052>
7. 2022. The less said the better: Dewey, Neurath, and mid-century theories of truth. *Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie* 104: 164-191. <https://doi.org/10.1515/agph-2019-0081>
8. 2021. What we talk about when we talk about truth: Dewey, Wittgenstein, and the pragmatic test. *International Journal of Philosophical Studies*. 29:2, 159-180, DOI: 10.1080/09672559.2020.1871055
9. 2020. Pragmatic accounts of belief and truth: A response to Aaron Zimmerman's *Belief: a Pragmatic Picture*. *William James Studies*. 16: 39-56.
10. 2020. Democracy, truth, and understanding: an epistemic argument for democracy. In M.C. Navin and R. Nunan (Eds.), *Democracy, Populism, and Truth*. New York: Springer.
11. 2020. A common-sense pragmatic theory of truth. *Philosophia*. 48: 463-481. DOI: 10.1007/s11406-019-00099-z
12. 2020. Truth and the Goldilocks principle. *Think*. 19: 65-74. DOI: 10.1017/S1477175620000068
13. 2020. William James and the will to alieve. *Contemporary Pragmatism*. 17: 1-20.
14. 2019. Playing fair by William James. *Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society* 55(1): 65-70.
15. 2018. Even worse than it seems: Transformative experience and the selection problem. *Journal of Philosophical Research* 43: 113-124.
16. 2018. Did Dewey have a theory of truth? *Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society* 54(1): 39-63
17. 2018. The case for discussion-intensive pedagogy. *APA Newsletter on Teaching Philosophy* 17(2): 5-11. Lenssen Prize Honorable Mention, American Association of Philosophy Teachers.
18. 2018. The Pragmatic origins of ethical expressivism: Stevenson, Dewey, and the International Encyclopedia of Unified Science. In S. Marchetti and M. Baghramian (Eds.), *Pragmatism and the European Traditions: Encounters with Analytic Philosophy and Phenomenology Before the Great Divide*. New York: Routledge.
19. 2018. From global expressivism to global pragmatism. *Metaphilosophy* 49: 71-89.
20. 2017. A pragmatic argument for a pragmatic theory of truth. *Contemporary Pragmatism* 14: 135-156.

21. 2014. Radical pragmatism: An operator's guide. *European Journal of Pragmatism and American Philosophy* 6: 125-144.
22. 2011. Pragmatic epistemology, logic, and inquiry. In Sami Pihlström (Ed.), *The Continuum Companion to Pragmatism*. New York: Continuum.
23. 2008. With David Hildebrand and Kimberly Bilica. Addressing controversies in science education: A pragmatic approach to evolution education. *Science and Education* 17: 1033-1052.
24. 2008. Introduction. In John Dewey, *Human Nature and Conduct* (pp. ix-xvi). New York: Barnes and Noble.
25. 2007. Naturalized epistemology. In John Lachs and Robert Talisse (Eds.), *American Philosophy: An Encyclopedia* (pp. 532-534). New York: Routledge.
26. 2007. Facts. In John Lachs and Robert Talisse (Eds.), *American Philosophy: An Encyclopedia* (pp. 277-278). New York: Routledge.
27. 2007. Darwin, influence of. In John Lachs and Robert Talisse (Eds.), *American Philosophy: An Encyclopedia* (pp. 152-159). New York: Routledge.
28. 2006. Jamesian truth. *William James Studies* 1. Retrieved from <http://williamjamesstudies.org/jamesian-truth-comments-on-charlene-haddock-seigfrieds-william-james-radical-reconstruction-of-philosophy/>
29. 2004. Sidney Hook and anti-communism. *Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society* 40: 803-816.
30. 2004. American philosophy & McCarthyism. *Philosophy Now* 46: 14-17.
31. 2003. Pragmatism and the McCarthy Era. *Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society* 39: 61-76.
32. 2002. Achieving pluralism: Why AIDS activists differ from creationists. In T. Burke, M. Hester, & R. Talisse (Eds.) *New Essays on Dewey's Logical Theory* (pp. 239-261). Nashville: Vanderbilt University Press.
33. 2000. Naturalism, pragmatism, and design. *Journal of Speculative Philosophy* 14: 161-178.
34. 1999. The pragmatism of Frederick L. Will. *Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society* 35: 475-500.
35. 1996. Dewey, Quine, and pragmatic naturalized epistemology. *Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society* 32: 634-667.
36. 1996. Pragmatism, feminism, sameness and difference. *Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society* 32: 65-105.
37. 1995. The bedrock of experience: an assessment of James' proposals for a critical science of religion. In D. Capps & J. Jacobs (eds.), *The Struggle for Life: A Companion to William James' The Varieties of Religious Experience* (238-249). West Lafayette, IN: Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Monograph Series.

Books

2009. *You've Got to Be Kidding: How Jokes Can Help You Think*. Wiley-Blackwell, with Donald Capps.
2005. *James and Dewey on Belief and Experience*. University of Illinois Press, edited with Donald Capps.
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Reviews

1. 2023. (With Camille Lea.) Review of *How to Think Like a Philosopher* by Julian Baggini. *Metascience* 32: 387-389.
2. 2022. Review of *Fixing the Climate: Strategies for an Uncertain World* by Charles Sabel and David Victor. *Dewey Studies* 6: 92-97
3. 2022. Review of *A Philosopher Looks at Science* by Nancy Cartwright. *Metascience*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11016-022-00822-9>
4. 2020. Review of *Sick Souls, Healthy Minds: How William James Can Save Your Life* by John Kaag. *Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society* 56: 110-113.
5. 2020. Review of *Neurath Reconsidered: New Sources and Perspectives* edited by Jordi Cat and Adam Tamas Tuboly. *HOPOS: The Journal of the International Society for the History of Philosophy of Science* 10: 353-357. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1086/707992>
6. 2017. Review of *Cambridge Pragmatism* by Cheryl Misak. *Journal for the History of Analytical Philosophy*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.15173/jhap.v5i3.3156>
7. 2013. Review of *Expressivism, Pragmatism, and Representationalism* by Huw Price. *Contemporary Pragmatism* 10: 193-200
8. 2013. Review of *Preludes to Pragmatism* by Philip Kitcher. *The Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society* 49: 443-447.
9. 2012. Review of *Truth and Skepticism* by Robert Almeder. *Notre Dame Philosophy Reviews* <http://ndpr.nd.edu/news/truth-and-skepticism/>
10. 2008. Review of *The Dynamic Individualism of William James* by James Pawelski. *The Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society* 44: 550-555.
11. 2006. Review of *How the Cold War Transformed Philosophy of Science* by George Reisch. *The Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society* 42: 167-171
12. 2004. Review of *Sidney Hook on Pragmatism, Democracy, and Freedom* edited by Robert Talisse and Robert Tempio. *The Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society* 40: 554-557.
13. 2004. Review of *Philosophical Tools for Technological Culture* by Larry Hickman. *Contemporary Pragmatism* 1: 184-187.
14. 2002. Review of *Ecological Psychology in Context* by Harry Heft. *The Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society* 38: 468-472.
15. 2001. Review of *Time in the Ditch: American Philosophy in the McCarthy Era* by John McCumber. *The Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society* 37: 677-681.

16. 1999. Review of *Pragmatism, Reason, and Norms* edited by Kenneth Westphal. *Ethics* 109: 492.
17. 1998. Review of *The Two Pragmatisms* by H.O. Mounce. *Ethics* 108: 837-838.
18. 1998. Review of *Structuring the World* by Sami Pihlström. *The Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy Newsletter*.

INVITED AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2024 Pragmatism and Pluralism: A Common-sense, Hard-core, Pragmatism-first, Approach to Truth. SAAP at the American Philosophical Association, Portland and SAAP, Boston
- 2023 What Pragmatists Should Say About the Future. SAAP, Denver
- 2023 Lekan's *William James and the Moral Life*. William James Society at SAAP, Denver.
- 2022 The "Eclipse" of Pragmatism: Using Text Analysis to Understand the Recent History of American Philosophy (with Evelyn Brister and Kris Edelman). Hickman Legacy Project Conference, San Marcos, TX.
- 2021 Music, Philosophy, Politics: A Response to Simone Gubler's 'An Ameliorative Account of Cancel Culture.' APA Central Division Meeting.
- 2020 Pragmatic Accounts of Belief and Truth: A Response to Aaron Zimmerman's *Belief: A Pragmatic Picture*. William James Society at the American Philosophical Association, Philadelphia.
- 2019 The Past and Future of Interdisciplinarity: Neurath and Incentives for Unified Science (with Evelyn Brister). SSHAP, Boston.
- 2019 Using and Abusing Truth in the Time of Trump. The Uses and Abuses of History in the Trump Era, RIT.
- 2018 Democracy, Truth, and Understanding: An Epistemic Argument for Democracy. American Section of the International Association for Philosophy of Law and Social Philosophy (AMINTAPHIL), Boston.
- 2018 Campbell's *Experiencing William James: Belief in a Pluralistic World*. Author Meets Critics session, SAAP, Indianapolis.
- 2018 Truth in the Time of Trump. Hale Ethics Series, RIT.
- 2018 Leveraging Student Discussions in Class (with Wade Robison). Teachers on Teaching Discussion Series, RIT.
- 2017 Dewey, Truth, and Critical Philosophy. John Dewey and Critical Philosophies for Critical Political Times, University College Dublin.

- 2016 Ethical Theory, Ethical Practice: Ethical Frameworks for Real-Life Situations. Oregon Mental Health Consortium, Portland.
- 2015 Pragmatism, Meaning, and Representation. Summer Institute in American Philosophy, University College Dublin.
- 2015 The Pragmatic Origins of Ethical Expressivism: Stevenson, Dewey, and the International Encyclopedia of Unified Science. SSHAP, Dublin.
- 2015 The Partial Eclipse of American Philosophy. SAAP, Grand Rapids, MI.
- 2013 Last Chapters for Pragmatism and Logical Empiricism: John Dewey and the International Encyclopedia of Unified Science. Lehigh University.
- 2012 Almeder's Truth and Skepticism. Author Meets Critics session, APA Pacific Division Meeting, Seattle.
- 2011 Pragmatic Truth. Nazareth College.
- 2011 Truth and Inquiry. Nordic Pragmatism Conference, Copenhagen.
- 2010 Truth, Ethics and Pragmatism. New York Pragmatist Forum, New York.
- 2009 Pragmatic Truth and Scientific Practice. SPSP, Minneapolis.
- 2007 Ethics and Truth. Hale Ethics Series, RIT.
- 2006 Epistemological Lessons of the Evolution/IDC Debate. SAAP, San Antonio.
- 2005 The Value Commitments of Pragmatism. William James Society at the APA Eastern Division Meeting, New York.
- 2005 Response to David Hildebrand's "Diversity, Inclusion, and Exclusion: A Reply to Capps." SAAP, Bakersfield, CA.
- 2004 Truth and Ignorance. The Ethics and Epistemologies of Ignorance, Penn State
- 2004 Truth Matters. Ohio University
- 2003 Response to Bernardo Cantens' "Overcoming the Evidentialist's Challenge: Peirce's Conjectures of Instinctive Reason and the Reality of God." APA Eastern Division Meeting, Washington, D.C.
- 2003 Sidney Hook: The Hero in History and Democracy. RIT.
- 2003 A Feminist Response to Philosophical Skepticism (with Evelyn Brister). APA Central Division Meeting, Cleveland
- 2003 Skepticism, Feminist Epistemology and Contextualism (with Evelyn Brister). Society for Skeptical Studies at the APA Pacific Division Meeting, San Francisco.
- 2003 Response to James Pawelski's "William James on Crossing the Internal Divide: A Reply to Richard Gale." SAAP, Denver.
- 2002 Pragmatism and the McCarthy Era. SAAP, Portland.
- 2001 Response to Hugh McDonald's "Dewey's Holism." SAAP, Las Vegas.

- 2000 Response To Robert Meyers' "Immediacy, Knowledge, and Naturalism." The Future of Realism in the American Tradition of Pragmatic Naturalism, SUNY Buffalo.
- 2000 Can Beliefs Be Prima Facie Justified? The Creighton Club, Skaneateles, NY.
- 2000 Naturalism, Pragmatism, and Design. SAAP at the APA Central Division Meeting, Chicago.
- 2000 Creationism vs. Pragmatism. SAAP, Indianapolis.
- 2000 Is Dewey's Model of Social Inquiry Defensible? SAAP, Indianapolis.
- 2000 Modest Naturalism. Connecticut College.
- 1999 Frederick Will's Pragmatic Naturalism. SAAP, Eugene, OR.
- 1996 Response to Hilary Kornblith's "In Defense of a Naturalized Epistemology." Can Epistemology Be Unified? SUNY Buffalo.
- 1996 Dewey, Quine, and Naturalized Epistemology. SAAP, Toronto.

MISCELLANEOUS

- 2021- Organizer, I Am an American Philosopher interview series, SAAP Website <https://american-philosophy.org/i-am-an-american-philosopher-interview-series/>
- 2023 Peer Review Report for: "Case Report: What—or who—killed Frank Ramsey? Some reflections on cause of death and the nature of medical reasoning" Wellcome Open Research 7:158 (<https://doi.org/10.21956/wellcomeopenres.19656.r63446>)
- 2022 The Open Texture of Democracy. The Loop: ECPR's Political Science Blog. <https://theloop.ecpr.eu/the-open-texture-of-democracy/>
- 2020 Richard Rorty, Cancel Culture, Political Fallibilism, and Achieving Our Country. The Blog of the American Philosophical Association. <https://blog.apaonline.org/2020/07/21/richard-rorty-cancel-culture-political-fallibilism-and-achieving-our-country/>
- 2019 Words Divide —Pictures Unite: Otto Neurath, Isotype, and the Unity of Science (with Evelyn Brister, Ethan Adler, and Rebekah Walker). Online exhibit for RIT's Cary Graphic Arts Collection.

AWARDS AND GRANTS

- 2022 College of Liberal Arts Faculty Research Grant
- 2021 College of Liberal Arts Faculty Research Grant
- 2020 Lensen Prize Honorable Mention for "The Case for Discussion-Intensive Pedagogy" American Association of Philosophy Teachers

2019	College of Liberal Arts Faculty Development Grant
2019	Professional Development Leave
2017	College of Liberal Arts Faculty Research Grant
2017	Student Learning Assessment Grant
2016	Provost's Learning Initiative Grant
2015	College of Liberal Arts Faculty Development Grant
2015	College of Liberal Arts Faculty Research Grant
2011	College of Liberal Arts Faculty Development Grant
2010-2011	Professional Development Leave
2009	College of Liberal Arts Faculty Research Grant
2006	College of Liberal Arts Faculty Development Grant
2005-2006	College of Liberal Arts Miller Fellowship
2004	College of Liberal Arts Faculty Research Grant
2003	Provost's Learning Initiative Grant (participant)
2002	Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy Joseph J. Blau Prize for "significant contribution to the history of American Philosophy"
2002	College of Liberal Arts Faculty Development Grant (with Babak Elahi)
2002	Finalist, Eisenhart Provost's Teaching Award for Excellence in Teaching
2000	SAAP Ila and John Mellow Prize for "excellence in advancing the American philosophical tradition toward the resolution of current personal, social and political problems"
1996	SAAP Douglas Greenlee Prize for "the best paper presented at the annual meeting by a person holding a Ph.D. for no more than five years"
1992-1997	University Scholar, Northwestern University
1991-1992	University Fellow, Northwestern University

TEACHING

Courses Taught	Seminar in Philosophy: Philosophy of Punishment, Theories of Knowledge*, American Philosophy*, Contemporary Philosophy*, Modern Philosophy*, Symbolic Logic*, Philosophy of Science*, Seminar in Philosophy: Truth*, Seminar in Philosophy: Truth in the Time of Trump, Contemporary Moral Problems, Introduction to Philosophy*, Critical Thinking*, Special Topics: Advanced Logic, ST: Cornel West, ST: Barack Obama, ST: Evolution and Creationism, ST: Literature and Philosophy, ST: American Pragmatism and Realism, ST: The James Brothers, ST: Skepticism * Multiple times
Senior Theses	Erika Strickland Au, Jeffrey Young*, Christopher Boone, Ashley Aberg, Anthony Ward, Kayla Emerson*, Tom Bojarski, Jeremy Berke*, Paul Taylor, Patricia Cadareanu, Emilio Collins*, Noah Collins*, Ricardo Aguilera * Director

SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY AND PROFESSION

2024-2025	Dismissal Review Committee for NTT Faculty (alternate)
2023-	RIT Faculty Senate, College of Liberal Arts Senator
2022-2023	COLA Financial and Resource Allocation Advisory Committee
2022-2024	College of Liberal Arts Distinguished Professor Committee
2018-2019	William James Society, Executive Committee (At-Large Member)
2016-2017	College of Liberal Arts Promotion Committee
2015-2016	College of Liberal Arts Tenure Committee
2014-2017	RIT Academic Senate, College of Liberal Arts Senator
2013-2014	William James Society, Nominating Committee
2012-2013	Chair, College of Liberal Arts Miller Fellowship Committee
2011-2013	Graduate Ethics Task Force
2010-2012	Smoking Policy Task Force
2008-2010	Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Committee
2007-2010	College of Liberal Arts Honors Advocate
2007-2009	Advisor, RITExploration Program
2007-2008	College of Liberal Arts Honors Coordinator
2007-2008	College of Liberal Arts Dean's Search Committee
2005-2010	College of Liberal Arts Student Research Fund Committee
2005-2008	College of Liberal Arts Faculty Development Committee
2005-2007	Judge, Institute Public Speaking Contest
2004-2005	College of Liberal Arts Research Committee
2003-2004	College of Liberal Arts General Education Steering Committee
2003	Conference Organizer, Pragmatism and Technological Practice
2002-2004	Chair, College of Liberal Arts Curriculum Committee
2001-2004	Advisor, RITExploration Program
2001-2005	College of Liberal Arts Curriculum Committee
2001-2003	American Studies Planning Committee
2001-2003	Academic Conduct Committee
2001	College of Liberal Arts Student Research Fund Committee
2000-2001	Philosophy Department Search Committee
1998-2000	Philosophy Department Search Committee
1998-2000	College of Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Refereeing *European Journal of Pragmatism and American Philosophy, International Journal of Philosophy and Theology, International Journal of Law, Crime and Justice, Journal of Philosophical Research, Philosophical Studies, Philosophical Quarterly, Cambridge University Press, Princeton University Press, Routledge, Southern Illinois University Press, University of New Mexico Press, Australasian Journal of Philosophy, Journal for the History of Analytical Philosophy, HOPOS, Journal of the Philosophy of History, Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society, Contemporary Pragmatism, Science and Education, Southern Journal of Philosophy*