

Seminars on Pragmatism and the Philosophy of Practices

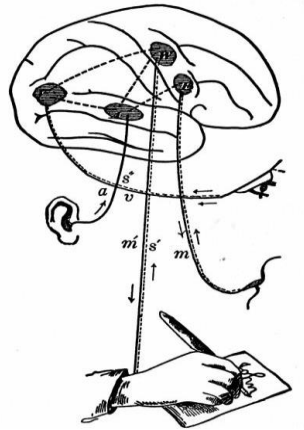
Friday, 14 February 2019, h. 11,00, Sala Paci,
Department of Philosophy, University of Milan,
Via Festa del Perdono 7 – 20122, Milano



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The study of culture after William James's *Principles of Psychology*

The general aim of the talk is to defend an interpretation of classical pragmatism as one of the most significant turn-of-the-century contributions to a philosophical study of culture. More specifically, the seminar aims to explore the crucial role played by William James in this story. In a chapter of *The Principles of Psychology* entitled “The Perception of Reality,” James suggests conceptualizing different cultural domains – such as science, mythology, or religion – as “sub-universes” of our reality, to which we may grant or deny existence depending on the specific situations in which we find ourselves acting. This argument opens up the possibility of a systematic inquiry into the way the many spheres of human culture develop over time and interact with one another. At the same time, it relates to other aspects of James’s philosophy that are pivotal to a philosophy of culture, such as the “will to believe,” the theory of emotions, and the stream of thought.



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Centro di Ricerca Interuniversitario

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