



### The conference is organized by

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**Prof. Dr. Hans Joas** | FRIAS & Max Weber Center  
**Prof. Dr. Matthias Jung** | University of Koblenz-Landau  
**PD Dr. Magnus Schlette** | FEST Heidelberg  
A limited number of listeners can be accommodated.  
Anyone interested, please **contact Magnus Schlette**  
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**GERDA HENKEL STIFTUNG**



UNIVERSITÄT ERFURT

International Conference

## Pragmatism and the Theory of Religion

February 16th – 18th, 2012 | Max Weber Center, Erfurt

In cooperation with Forschungsstätte der Evangelischen Studiengemeinschaft (FEST), Heidelberg

## Program

### Thursday, 16th February 2012

1 p.m. | **Welcome and Introduction**

1:30 p.m. | **Opening lecture**

Robert Cummings Neville:

„Theory of religion in a pragmatic philosophical theology“

2:45 p.m. | **Coffee break**

3 p.m. | **Pragmatism and the American tradition**

Michael Raposa:

„A brief history of Theosemiotic: from Scotus through Peirce and beyond“

Marie-Luise Raters:

„Don't worry - be happy! The intrinsic connection between religious faith and worldly happiness in William James' theory of religion and its sources in Emerson's Transcendentalism“

4 p.m. | **Discussion; commentary and moderation:** Julien Winandy

5 p.m. | **Coffee break**

5:30 p.m. | **On the relationship between philosophical anthropology and ethics in William James' philosophy of religion**

Eilert Herms:

„Anthropological prerequisites in Williams James' concept of religion“

Sami Pihlström:

„The problem of evil in pragmatist philosophy of religion“

6:30 p.m. | **Discussion; commentary and moderation:** Michaela Rehm

8 p.m. | **Dinner**

### Friday, 17th February 2012

9 a.m. | **The semiotic and pragmatist turn of the philosophy of religion in the work of Charles S. Peirce**

Hermann Deuser:

„Pragmatic or pragmatist philosophy of religion?“

Gesche Linde:

„Man's highest developments are social': The individual and the social in Peirce's philosophy of religion“

Vincent Colapietro:

„The dissenting voices of Charles Peirce“

10:30 a.m. | **Discussion; commentary and moderation:** Claudio Viale

12 a.m. | **Lunch**

1 p.m. | **A brief tour of medieval Erfurt**

4:30 p.m. | **Josiah Royce's philosophy of religion in the context of Pragmatism**

Ludwig Nagl:

„Avoiding the dichotomy of 'either the individual or the collectivity': Josiah Royce on community and on James' concept of religion“

Hans Joas:

„Religious experience and its interpretation. Reflections on James and Royce“

5:30 p.m. | **Discussion; commentary and moderation:** Stephan Steiner

7 p.m. | **Evening lecture**

Wayne Proudfoot:

„Pragmatism and Naturalism in the study of religion“

9 p.m. | **Dinner**

### Saturday, 18th February 2012

9 a.m. | **Naturalism, qualitative experience and the realm of faith in John Dewey's religious thought**

Victor Kestenbaum:

„Ontological faith in Dewey's religious idealism“

Matthias Jung:

„Qualitative experience and naturalized religion: An inner tension in Dewey's thought?“

10 a.m. | **Discussion; commentary and moderation:** Donata Schoeller

11 a.m. **Coffee break**

11:30 a.m. | **Exploration against the backdrop of classical Pragmatism**

Magnus Schlette:

„... how you understand ... can only be shown by how you live'. Putnam on religion“

Christoph Seibert:

„Towards a pragmatic methodology in philosophy of religion. Perspectives of classical American pragmatism“

Christian Polke:

„Personalism and Pragmatism. The innovative competence of American Philosophy for contemporary theories of religion“

1 p.m. | **Discussion; commentary and moderation:** Cornelia Mügge

2 p.m. | **End of conference**

2 p.m. | **Snack**