

Record in the Commens Bibliography. Retrieved from http://www.commens.org/bibliography/journal_article/atkins-richard-k-2017-peirce-muybridge-and-moving-pictures-tought, 27.05.2026.

Type: Article in Journal
Author: Atkins, Richard Kenneth
Title: Peirce, Muybridge, and the Moving Pictures of Thought
Year: 2017
Journal: Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society
Volume: 53
Issue: 4
Pages: 511-527
Keywords: Existential Graph, Eadweard Muybridge
Abstract: Peirce once called his graphical system of logic-the Existential Graphs-the moving pictures of thought. I argue that Peirce meant that using his graphs to study the movement of thought is akin to Eadweard Muybridge's use of moving pictures to study animal motion, and I show that this analogy is highly apt for several reasons. The analogy is apt because: (1) Just as animal motion is continuous, thought is continuous; (2) Animal motion, like the movement of thought, is too swift and complex to examine directly, without aid; (3) Nevertheless, just as we can record a series of moments of animal motion with the use of a special instrument (viz., cameras and instantaneous photographs), so too we can record a series of moments of thought with the use of a special instrument (viz., the Existential Graphs), enabling us to study its structure; and (4) Through the study of these moments of thought, or of animal motion, we will improve our understanding of them and be able to settle debates about them.
ISSN: 00091774
DOI: 10.2979/trancharpeirsoc.53.4.01
Language: English