Record in the Commens Bibliography. Retrieved from

http://www.commens.org/bibliography/journal_article/bonta-steven-2015-peircean-typology-cultural-prime-symbols-culture, 21.11.2025.

Type: Article in Journal

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Title: A Peircean typology of cultural prime symbols: Culture as category

Year: 2015

Journal: Semiotica

Volume: 2015 **Issue:** 207

Pages: 251-277

Keywords: Culture, Prime Symbol, Categories, Degeneracy

Abstract: Oswald Spengler first showed that every macroculture can be conceived of as

an accretion of signs representing in various contexts a single abstract Prime Symbol. But this semiotic model of culture is not confined to the so-called 'great civilizations'; it is applicable to every culture. In seeking a typology of Prime Symbols (and hence, a semiotic typology of cultures), we show that that the Peircean Categories Firstness, Secondness, and Thirdness (including the 'degenerate' Categories Firstness of Secondness, Firstness of Thirdness, and Secondness of Thirdness) are exemplified in the great range of cultural semiotic types, and that, because of their universality and generality, these Categories are the best semiotic lens through which cultural Prime Symbols can be

understood.

ISSN: 00371998

DOI: 10.1515/sem-2015-0038

Language: English