

Record in the Commens Bibliography. Retrieved from http://www.commens.org/bibliography/journal_article/howat-andrew-2014-peirce-grounding-laws-logic, 31.10.2025.

Type: Article in Journal

Author: Howat, Andrew

Title: Peirce on Grounding the Laws of Logic

Year: 2014

Journal: Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society

Volume: 50

Issue: 4

Pages: 480-500

Keywords: Logic, Metaphysics

Abstract: This paper is a contribution to the long-standing debate over the coherence of Charles Sanders Peirce's overall system of philosophy. It approaches that issue through the lens of a contemporary debate over the notion of metaphysical grounding, or more broadly, the nature of metaphysical explanation, employing the laws of logic as a case study. The central question concerns how we can take seriously what we shall call Peirce's Rule—that nothing can be admitted to be absolutely inexplicable—without being vulnerable to a vicious regress or equally vicious circularity. I first argue that in Peirce's early work he offers a quietist conception of grounding that provides a persuasive and ground-breaking answer to this central question.¹ I then raise a familiar concern, that in Peirce's later work we find hints of a more metaphysical conception of grounding that seems unable to answer that question and is thus inconsistent with his earlier work. The paper ends with a speculative interpretation of Peirce's approach to metaphysics and its possible role in grounding logical principles.

Language: English