

Record in the Commens Bibliography. Retrieved from [http://www.commens.org/bibliography/journal\\_article/radford-luis-2009-diagrammatic-thinking-notes-peirces-semiotics-and](http://www.commens.org/bibliography/journal_article/radford-luis-2009-diagrammatic-thinking-notes-peirces-semiotics-and), 26.06.2025.

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**Type:** Article in Journal

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**Title:** Diagrammatic Thinking: Notes On Peirce's Semiotics and Epistemology

**Year:** 2009

**Journal:** PNA

**Volume:** 3

**Issue:** 1

**Pages:** 1-18

**Keywords:** Diagrammatic Thinking, Kant, Epistemology, Semiotics

**Abstract:** In this paper, I discuss the role of diagrammatic thinking within the larger context of cognitive activity as framed by Peirce's semiotic theory of and its underpinning realistic ontology. After a short overview of Kant's scepticism in its historical context, I examine Peirce's attempt to rescue perception as a way to reconceptualize the Kantian "manifold of senses". I argue that Peirce's redemption of perception led him to a series of problems that are as fundamental as those that Kant encountered. I contend that the understanding of the difficulties of Peirce's epistemology allows us to better grasp the limits and possibilities of diagrammatic thinking.

**ISSN:** 18873987

**Language:** English