

'Habit-taking' (pub. 22.10.15-16:01). Quote in M. Bergman & S. Paavola (Eds.), *The Commens Dictionary: Peirce's Terms in His Own Words. New Edition*. Retrieved from <http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-cambridge-lectures-reasoning-and-logic-things-habit-9>.

Term: Habit-taking

Quote: ...any fundamental universal tendency ought to manifest itself in nature. Where shall we look for it? We could not expect to find it in such phenomena as gravitation where the evolution has so nearly approached its ultimate limit, that nothing even simulating irregularity can be found in it. But we must search for this generalizing tendency rather in such departments of nature where we find plasticity and evolution still at work. The most plastic of all things is the human mind, and next after that comes the organic world, the world of protoplasm. Now the generalizing tendency is the great law of mind, the law of association, the law of habit taking. We also find in all active protoplasm a tendency to take habits. Hence I was led to the hypothesis that the laws of the universe have been formed under a universal tendency of all things toward generalization and habit-taking.

Source: Peirce, C. S. (1898). *Cambridge Lectures on Reasoning and the Logic of Things: Habit*. MS [R] 951.

References: RLT 241; CP 7.515

Date of 1898

Quote:

URL: <http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-cambridge-lectures-reasoning-and-logic-things-habit-9>