

News item. Retrieved from
<http://www.commens.org/news/item/practical-turn-pragmatism-britain-long-twentieth-century>, 24.05.2026.

Category: Academic Meeting

Title: The Practical Turn: Pragmatism in Britain in the Long Twentieth Century

Description: Convenors: Professor Huw Price FBA, University of Cambridge, and Professor Cheryl Misak FRSC, University of Toronto

The Pragmatist approach to philosophical problems focuses on the role of disputed notions — e.g., truth, value or necessity — in our practices. As a self-conscious philosophical stance, Pragmatism arose in America in the late nineteenth century, in the work of writers such as Charles Peirce, William James and John Dewey. Since then many distinguished British philosophers have also taken this practical turn, even if few have explicitly identified themselves as Pragmatists. This symposium traces and assesses the influence of American Pragmatism on British philosophy, with particular emphasis on Cambridge in the inter-war period, on post-war Oxford, and on recent developments.

Participants include:

- Professor David Bakhurst, Queen's University, Canada
- Professor Simon Blackburn FBA, University of Cambridge, New College of the Humanities, and University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
- Ms Anna Boncompagni, Roma Tre University
- Professor Hans Johann Glock, University of Zurich
- Professor Jane Heal FBA, University of Cambridge
- Professor Hallvard Lillehammer, Birkbeck College, London
- Professor Hugh Mellor, University of Cambridge
- Professor Cheryl Misak FRSC, University of Toronto
- Professor Huw Price FBA FAHA, University of Cambridge
- Professor Ian Rumfitt, University of Birmingham
- Professor David Wiggins FBA, University of Oxford.

FREE: Registration required

Date: 02/10/2014

Place: The British Academy, 10-11 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AH

Link: [Event page](#)

Keywords: Pragmatism