

## CURRICULUM VITAE – TREVOR PEARCE

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### CONTACT INFORMATION

Trevor Pearce  
Department of Philosophy  
University of North Carolina at Charlotte  
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Charlotte, NC 28223  
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### ACADEMIC INTERESTS

**Research** American Philosophy, History and Philosophy of Biology  
**Teaching** Philosophy of Science, Ancient Chinese Philosophy, Modern European Philosophy, Environmental Ethics, Buddhism

### EMPLOYMENT

**2024–** Professor of Philosophy, UNC Charlotte  
**2021–** Chair of Philosophy, UNC Charlotte  
**2018–2024** Associate Professor of Philosophy, UNC Charlotte  
**2013–2018** Assistant Professor of Philosophy, UNC Charlotte  
**2011–2013** Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in the Humanities, UW–Madison  
**2010–2011** Postdoctoral Fellow, Rotman Institute of Philosophy, Western U

### EDUCATION

**2010** PhD, Conceptual and Historical Studies of Science, University of Chicago  
**2007** MSc, Evolutionary Biology, University of Chicago  
**2007** MA, Philosophy, University of Chicago  
**2004** BA, English Honors, University of British Columbia  
**2004** BASc, Metals and Materials Engineering, University of British Columbia

### BOOKS

*Pragmatism's Evolution: Organism and Environment in American Philosophy*. University of Chicago Press, 2020. [[link](#)]  
*Entangled Life: Organism and Environment in the Biological and Social Sciences*. Springer, 2014. (Co-edited with Gillian Barker and Eric Desjardins.) [[link](#)]

- Protoplasm and the Mind-Body Problem: The Case of Edmund Montgomery, in *The Early Years of "Mind": Making Contemporary Philosophy and Psychology*, ed. Lukas M. Verburgt (Oxford University Press, in press).
- Antoinette Brown Blackwell: Woman's Rights and Woman's Evolution, in *The Oxford Handbook of American and British Women Philosophers in the Nineteenth Century*, ed. Lydia Moland and Alison Stone (Oxford University Press, in press). [\[link\]](#)
- Darwinism, Positivism, Materialism, Relativism: Science and Philosophy in the 1860s, in *The History and Philosophy of Materialism*, ed. Charles T. Wolfe and John Symons (Routledge, 2025), 292–305. [\[link\]](#)
- John Dewey, Evolutionary Anthropology, and Comparative Jurisprudence. *European Journal of Pragmatism and American Philosophy* 16 (2024) [\[link\]](#)
- James and Evolution, in *The Oxford Handbook of William James*, ed. Alexander Mugar Klein (Oxford University Press, 2024), 109–133. [\[link\]](#)
- Grace de Laguna's Evolutionary Critique of Pragmatism. *Australasian Philosophical Review* 6 (2022): 88–97. [\[link\]](#)
- Dewey, le darwinisme et la variation dirigée, in *Penser l'évolution: Nietzsche, Bergson, Dewey*, ed. Antoine Daratos and Paul Walter (Vrin, 2019), 141–154. [\[link\]](#)
- "Protoplasm Feels": The Role of Physiology in Peirce's Evolutionary Metaphysics. *HOPOS* 8 (2018): 28–61. [\[link\]](#)
- American Pragmatism, Evolution, and Ethics, in *The Cambridge Handbook of Evolutionary Ethics*, ed. Michael Ruse and Robert J. Richards (Cambridge University Press, 2017), 43–57. [\[link\]](#)
- Naturalism and Despair: George Herbert Mead and Evolution in the 1880s, in *The Timeliness of George Herbert Mead*, ed. Daniel R. Huebner and Hans Joas (University of Chicago Press, 2016), 117–143. [\[link\]](#)
- "Science Organized": Positivism and the Metaphysical Club, 1865–1875. *Journal of the History of Ideas* 76 (2015): 441–465. [\[link\]](#)
- The Dialectical Biologist, circa 1890: John Dewey and the Oxford Hegelians. *Journal of the History of Philosophy* 52 (2014): 747–777. [\[link\]](#)
- The Origins and Development of the Idea of Organism-Environment Interaction, in *Entangled Life: Organism and Environment in the Biological and Social Sciences*, ed. Gillian Barker, Eric Desjardins, and Trevor Pearce (Springer, 2014), 13–32. [\[link\]](#)
- Puzzles for ZFEL, McShea and Brandon's Zero Force Evolutionary Law. *Biology and Philosophy* 27 (2012): 723–735. (With Martin Barrett et al.) [\[link\]](#)
- Convergence and Parallelism in Evolution – A Neo-Gouldian Account. *British*

*Journal for the Philosophy of Science* 63 (2012): 429–448. [\[link\]](#)

Evolution and Constraints on Variation: Variant Specification and Range of Assessment. *Philosophy of Science* 78 (2011): 739–751. [\[link\]](#)

Ecosystem Engineering, Experiment, and Evolution. *Biology and Philosophy* 26 (2011): 793–812. [\[link\]](#)

From ‘Circumstances’ to ‘Environment’: Herbert Spencer and the Origins of the Idea of Organism-Environment Interaction. *Studies in History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sciences* 41 (2010): 241–252. [\[link\]](#)

“A Great Complication of Circumstances” – Darwin and the Economy of Nature. *Journal of the History of Biology* 43 (2010): 493–528. [\[link\]](#)

Biomechanics of Byssal Threads outside the Mytilidae – *Atrina rigida* and *Ctenoides mitis*. *Journal of Experimental Biology* 212 (2009): 1449–1454. (With Michael LaBarbera.) [\[link\]](#)

A Comparative Study of the Mechanical Properties of Mytilid Byssal Threads. *Journal of Experimental Biology* 212 (2009): 1442–1448. (With Michael LaBarbera.) [\[link\]](#)

Tonal Functions and Active Synthesis: Hugo Riemann, German Psychology, and Kantian Epistemology. *Intégral* 22 (2008): 81–116. [\[link\]](#)

Simple Mathematical and Computational Wear Model for Ultra-High-Molecular-Weight Polyethylene Total Hip Replacements. *Applied Bionics and Biomechanics* 4 (2007): 83–88. (With K. H. S. Chan et al.) [\[link\]](#)

AWARDS & HONORS	2024	Invited Professor, École normale supérieure, Paris <a href="#">[link]</a>
	2020–2021	Faculty Research Grant, UNC Charlotte
	2016–2017	Scholars Award, National Science Foundation <a href="#">[link]</a>
	2016–2017	Junior Faculty Development Award, UNC Charlotte [declined]
	2016–2017	Faculty Research Grant, UNC Charlotte
	2016	Frances Lumsden Gwynn Award, UNC Charlotte
	2014	Short-Term Fellowship, Huntington Library
	2014–2015	Faculty Research Grant, UNC Charlotte
	2010–2011	Postdoctoral Fellowship, SSHRC
	2009–2010	Mellon Dissertation-Year Fellowship, University of Chicago
	2006–2008	Doctoral Fellowship, SSHRC
	2004–2009	Presidential Fellowship in the Humanities, University of Chicago

BOOK  
REVIEWS

Review of *Lamarckism and the Emergence of 'Scientific' Social Sciences in Nineteenth-Century Britain and France*, by Snait B. Gissis. *British Journal for the History of Science*, forthcoming. [[link](#)]

Review of *Love, Order, and Progress: The Science, Philosophy, and Politics of Auguste Comte*, edited by Michel Bourdeau, Mary Pickering, and Warren Schmaus. *HOPOS* 9 (2019): 419–423. [[link](#)]

Review of *Belief: A Pragmatic Picture*, by Aaron Zimmerman. *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* (2018.10.10). [[link](#)]

Review of *Evolutionary Pragmatism and Ethics*, by Beth Eddy. *Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society* 53 (2017): 495–498. [[link](#)]

Review of *La gauche évolutionniste: Spencer et ses lecteurs en France et en Italie*, by Naomi Beck. *Isis* 107 (2016): 418–419. [[link](#)]

Review of *The American Pragmatists*, by Cheryl Misak. *HOPOS* 4 (2014): 172–176. [[link](#)]

“Philosophy of Biology in the Twenty-First Century,” review of *The Oxford Handbook of Philosophy of Biology*, edited by Michael Ruse. *Studies in History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sciences* 43 (2012): 312–315. [[link](#)]

Review of *La science goethéenne des vivants: De l'histoire naturelle à la biologie évolutionniste*, by Jean-Michel Pouget. *Journal of the History of Biology* 40 (2007): 187–190. [[link](#)]

Review of *Fiction Refracts Science: Modernist Writers from Proust to Borges*, by Allen Thiher. *Modern Philology* 104 (2007): 463–466. [[link](#)]

TEACHING

**W. E. B. Du Bois** Spring 2018, Fall 2025 [seminar]

**Asian Philosophies** Fall 2023, Spring 2024, Fall 2024, Spring 2026

**Philosophy of Science** Fall 2014, Fall 2018, Spring 2025

**Alain Locke** Spring 2023 [seminar]

**Philosophy of Biology** Spring 2012, Spring 2013, Fall 2022

**Modern Philosophy** Spring 2014–2022 [alternate years]

**Philosophical Methods and Analysis** Fall 2018, Fall 2019 [seminar]

**Environmental Ethics** Spring 2016

**Pragmatism, Evolution, and Ethics** Spring 2016 [seminar]

**Introduction to Philosophy** Fall 2013, Fall 2014, Fall 2015

**Nature as Technology** Fall 2014 [seminar]

**Philosophy of the Social Sciences** Fall 2012

INVITED  
TALKS

Alain Locke's Critique of the "Logico-Experimental Slant" in Pragmatism. To be presented at the Northern Seminar in Late Modern Philosophy, University of Durham, June 19–20, 2025.

Race, Psychology, and Social Heredity: Dewey, Du Bois, Locke. Presented at the workshop on "John Dewey, Race, and Colonialism," Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, October 17–19, 2024.

Making Philosophy Scientific: Alain Locke versus John Dewey. Presented at the Second SoCal Pragmatist Forum on "Pragmatism and the Evolution of Scientific Methods," University of California, Irvine, October 5, 2024.

John Dewey, Alain Locke, and the Social Sciences, 1885–1935. Series of four lectures presented in the "Actualités du pragmatisme" research seminar series, École normale supérieure, Paris, May–June 2024.

Pragmatist Ethics: Evolution, Experiment, and Social Progress. Presented at the "Actualités du pragmatisme" research seminar series [online], École normale supérieure, Paris, October 20, 2022.

Precursors to Dialectical Biology, 1838–1908. Presented at "A Triple Helix: Metaphor, Society, and the Science of Evolution," Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, October 3, 2022.

Grace de Laguna's Evolutionary Critique of Pragmatism. Presented at the "Pragmatism and Scientific Practice – Historical and Applied Perspectives" workshop, ETH Zürich, August 11, 2022.

Experimental Ethics: Pragmatism, Environment, and Social Reform. Presented at the Philosophy colloquium series, University of South Carolina, October 15, 2021.

Grace de Laguna's Evolutionary Critique of Pragmatism. Presented at the Philosophy colloquium series [online], McMaster University, March 12, 2021.

Experimental Ethics: Pragmatism, Environment, and Social Reform. Presented at the Science and Technology Studies colloquium series [online], University of British Columbia, November 18, 2020.

The Evolutionary Method: Addams, Du Bois, Dewey. Presented at the Summer Institute in American Philosophy, University of Dayton, July 8–13, 2019.

W. E. B. Du Bois and Evolution, 1885–1909. Presented at the Boston Colloquium for Philosophy of Science, Boston University, March 29, 2019.

Evolution at School: Educating the Second Cohort of Pragmatists. Presented at the History and Philosophy of Science Workshop, University of Chicago, March 15, 2019.

Pragmatist Logic: Evolution, Experiment, and Inquiry. Presented at the Seminars on Pragmatism and the Sciences, University of Milan, October 17–18, 2018.

"The Ordinary Cock-sure Evolutionist": Pragmatism, Naturalism, Adaptationism. Presented in the colloquium series of the Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology, University of Toronto, February 3, 2016.

Pragmatism, Positivism, Evolutionism: Currents in Late-Nineteenth-Century American Philosophy. Presented at the "Rethinking Modern Philosophy" conference, University of Sheffield, June 14–15, 2015.

James *contra* Spencer: Environment and the Active Mind. Presented at the Inland Northwest Philosophy Conference on "Philosophy of Science: Inside and Out," Washington State University, July 31–August 1, 2014.

George Herbert Mead's Debt to Biology: Evolution and Philosophy in the 1880s. Presented at the "George Herbert Mead at 150" conference, University of Chicago, April 18–20, 2013.

The Dialectical Biologist, circa 1890: Dewey, Mead, and the Oxford Hegelians. Presented at the "Pragmatism in Philosophy of Science" conference, University of San Francisco, March 30–31, 2012.

Darwin versus Spencer: The Economy of Nature and Organism-Environment Interaction. Presented at the "Evo-Eco 1830–1870" workshop, Institut d'histoire et de philosophie des sciences et des techniques, Université Paris 1, February 17–18, 2012.

"Psychologists Don't Know Much about Evolution": Osborn, Cope, and the Baldwin Effect. Presented at the History & Theory of Psychology colloquium, York University, March 3, 2011.

The Role of Case Studies in Evolutionary Debates. Presented at the Philosophy colloquium, Case Western Reserve University, November 4, 2011.

Biology & Philosophy: Creative Exchange. Presented at the "Essence of Creativity" session of the Wisconsin Science Festival, University of Wisconsin-Madison, September 23, 2011.

From 'Circumstances' to 'Environment': Herbert Spencer and the Origins of the Idea of Organism-Environment Interaction. Presented at the Paleobiology Seminar Series, Smithsonian Museum of Natural History, April 9, 2009.

CONFERENCE  
PRESENTATIONS

Alain Locke—Scientific Philosopher. Presented at the Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy annual meeting, Howard University, March 13–15, 2025.

Alain Locke and the Brentano School. Presented at the International Society for the History of Philosophy of Science biennial meeting, University of Vienna, July 9–12, 2024.

W. E. B. Du Bois, Alain Locke, and Social Heredity. Presented at the “Philosophy of the Black Experience” conference, Howard University, March 28–30, 2024.

Protoplasm and the Mind-Body Problem: The Case of Edmund Montgomery. Presented at the International Society for the History of Philosophy of Science biennial meeting, University of California, Irvine, June 20–23, 2022.

Antoinette Brown Blackwell on Women’s Rights, Metaphysics, and Evolution. Presented at the International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology biennial meeting, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory [online], July 13–20, 2021.

Feminist Philosophers of Evolution: Antoinette Brown Blackwell and Frances Emily White. Presented at the British Society for the History of Philosophy annual meeting, Durham University [online], April 21–23, 2021.

Evolutionary Strivings: Royce and Du Bois on Evolution and Idealism. Presented at the Douglas MacDonald Conference on Josiah Royce, His Colleagues, and Students, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN, October 18–20, 2019.

W. E. B. Du Bois’s Evolutionary Sociology. Presented at the History of Science Society annual meeting, Seattle, WA, November 1–4, 2018.

Breaking Up Habits: Peirce and Dewey on Evolution and Progress. Presented at the British Society for the History of Philosophy annual meeting, Durham, UK, April 12–14, 2018.

American Pragmatism, Moral Evolution, and Social Reform. Presented at the Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy annual meeting, Indianapolis, IN, March 8–10, 2018.

Evolutionary Progress and Social Reform in American Pragmatism. Presented at the History of Science Society annual meeting, Atlanta, GA, November 3–6, 2016.

“The Ordinary Cock-sure Evolutionist”: Pragmatism, Naturalism, Adaptationism. Presented at the International Society for the History of Philosophy of Science biennial meeting, Minneapolis, MN, June 22–25, 2016.

Darwin’s Reasoner: Chauncey Wright as Philosopher of Biology. Presented at the International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology biennial meeting, Montreal, Canada, July 6–10, 2015.

Weismannism Comes to America: Pragmatism and Evolution in the 1890s. Presented at the History of Science Society annual meeting, Chicago, IL, November 6–9, 2014.

When Did Peirce and James Become Evolutionists? Presented at the Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy annual meeting, Denver, CO, March 6–8, 2014.

George Herbert Mead's Debt to Biology: Evolution and Philosophy in the 1880s. Presented at the American Philosophical Association – Eastern Division annual meeting, Atlanta, GA, December 27–30, 2012.

Evolution and Positivism in the Metaphysical Club: Chauncey Wright and John Fiske. Presented at the International Society for the History of Philosophy of Science biennial meeting, Halifax, Canada, June 21–24, 2012.

The Dialectical Biologist, circa 1890: Dewey and the Oxford Hegelians. Presented at the International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology biennial meeting, Salt Lake City, UT, July 11–14, 2011.

The Biological Roots of Pragmatism: William James and Organism-Environment Interaction. Presented at the American Philosophical Association – Central Division annual meeting, Minneapolis, MN, March 30–April 2, 2011.

Evolution and Constraints on Variation: Variant Specification and Range of Assessment. Presented at the Philosophy of Science Association biennial meeting, Montreal, Canada, November 4–6, 2010.

The Spencer-Weismann Dispute and Alternative Evolutionary Mechanisms in the 1890s. Presented at the History of Science Society annual meeting, Phoenix, AZ, November 19–22, 2009.

Organism-Environment Interaction, Constraints, and Macroevolution. Presented at the International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology biennial meeting, Brisbane, Australia, July 12–16, 2009.

From 'Circumstances' to 'Environment': Herbert Spencer and the Origins of the Idea of Organism-Environment Interaction. Presented at the Inland Northwest Philosophy Conference on "The Environment" University of Idaho, May 1–3, 2009.

The Scorpion's Sting – Functions, Mechanisms, and Biomechanical Explanation. Presented at the International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology biennial meeting, University of Exeter, July 25–29, 2007.

Engineering Values – John Dewey, Rudolf Carnap, and Valuation in Science. Presented at the International Society for the History of Philosophy of Science biennial meeting, École Normale Supérieure, Paris, June 14–18, 2006.

UNIVERSITY  
SERVICE

<b>Department</b>	Department Chair (2021–present); Website Coordinator (2018–present); Library Liaison (2014–present); Graduate Program Director (2018–2020); Review Committee (2018–2020); Search Committee (2014–2015); Curriculum & Policy Committee (2013–2014)
<b>College</b>	Faculty Council (2014–2016, 2018–2020)
<b>University</b>	Library Collection Review Task Force (2019–2020)



PROFESSIONAL  
SERVICE

<b>Book Review Editor</b>	HOPOS, 2023–present
<b>Reviewer</b>	University of Chicago Press, Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, University of Pittsburgh Press, National Science Foundation, ETH Zürich, <i>British Journal for the Philosophy of Science</i> , <i>Biology and Philosophy</i> , <i>Erkenntnis</i> , <i>Studies in History and Philosophy of Science</i> , <i>Studies in History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sciences</i> , <i>Journal of the History of Philosophy</i> , <i>British Journal for the History of Philosophy</i> , <i>Journal of the History of Biology</i> , <i>History of Psychology</i> , <i>Evolution</i> , <i>Perspectives in Biology and Medicine</i> , <i>Environmental Values</i> , HOPOS, <i>William James Studies</i> , <i>Journal of Classical Sociology</i> , <i>Biological Theory</i> , <i>European Journal of Pragmatism and American Philosophy</i> , <i>Contemporary Pragmatism</i> , <i>Journal of the History of the Behavioral Sciences</i>
<b>Listserv Moderator</b>	Publications Committee, ISHPSSB, 2011–2021
<b>Member</b>	Off-Year Workshop Committee, ISHPSSB, 2007–2011