

# JOHN CAPPS

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Rochester Institute of Technology  
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## EMPLOYMENT

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2015- *Professor*  
2011-2014 *Chair*, Department of Philosophy  
2006-2015 *Associate Professor*  
2008-2010 *Senior Associate Dean*, College of Liberal Arts  
2007-2008 *Associate Dean*, College of Liberal Arts  
2000-2006 *Assistant Professor*, RIT  
1998-2000 *Assistant Professor*, University of North Florida  
1998-2000 *Visiting Assistant Professor*, College of Charleston

## AREAS

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AOS Epistemology, American Philosophy  
AOC Logic, History of Philosophy (especially 20th century Anglo-American)

## EDUCATION

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1997 Northwestern University: Ph.D in Philosophy  
Dissertation: *Context and Inquiry: Justification in Naturalized Epistemology*  
Committee: Thomas Ryckman, Arthur Fine, Michael Williams  
1994 Northwestern University: MA in Philosophy  
1991 St. John's College, Annapolis: BA

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Books

2009. *You've Got to Be Kidding: How Jokes Can Help You Think*. Wiley-Blackwell, with Donald Capps.
  2005. *James and Dewey on belief and experience*. University of Illinois Press, edited with Donald Capps.
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## Articles and Book Chapters

1. Forthcoming. Even worse than it seems: Transformative experience and the selection problem. *Journal of Philosophical Research*.
2. Forthcoming. Did Dewey have a theory of truth? *Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society*. 2018.
3. 2018. The case for discussion-intensive pedagogy. *APA Newsletter on Teaching Philosophy* 17(2): 5-11.
4. 2018. The Pragmatic origins of ethical expressivism: Stevenson, Dewey, and the International Encyclopedia of Unified Science. In S. Marchetti and M. Baghramian (Eds.), *Pragmatism and the European Traditions: Encounters with Analytic Philosophy and Phenomenology Before the Great Divide*. New York: Routledge.
5. 2018. From global expressivism to global pragmatism. *Metaphilosophy* 49: 71-89.
6. 2017. A pragmatic argument for a pragmatic theory of truth. *Contemporary Pragmatism* 14: 135-156.
7. 2014. Radical pragmatism: An operator's guide. *European Journal of Pragmatism and American Philosophy* 6: 125-144.
8. 2011. Pragmatic epistemology, logic, and inquiry. In Sami Pihlström (Ed.), *The Continuum Companion to Pragmatism*. New York: Continuum.
9. 2008. With David Hildebrand and Kimberly Bilica. Addressing controversies in science education: A pragmatic approach to evolution education. *Science and Education* 17: 1033-1052.
10. 2008. Introduction. In John Dewey, *Human Nature and Conduct* (pp. ix-xvi). New York: Barnes and Noble.
11. 2007. Naturalized epistemology. In John Lachs and Robert Talisse (Eds.), *American Philosophy: An Encyclopedia* (pp. 532-534). New York: Routledge.
12. 2007. Facts. In John Lachs and Robert Talisse (Eds.), *American Philosophy: An Encyclopedia* (pp. 277-278). New York: Routledge.
13. 2007. Darwin, influence of. In John Lachs and Robert Talisse (Eds.), *American Philosophy: An Encyclopedia* (pp. 152-159). New York: Routledge.
14. 2006. Jamesian truth. *William James Studies* 1. Retrieved from <http://williamjamesstudies.org/jamesian-truth-comments-on-charlene-haddock-seigfrieds-william-james-radical-reconstruction-of-philosophy/>

15. 2004. Sidney Hook and anti-communism. *Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society* 40: 803-816.
  16. 2004. American philosophy & McCarthyism. *Philosophy Now* 46: 14-17.
  17. 2003. Pragmatism and the McCarthy Era. *Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society* 39: 61-76.
  18. 2002. Achieving pluralism: Why AIDS activists differ From creationists. In T. Burke, M. Hester, & R. Talisse (Eds.) *New Essays on Dewey's Logical Theory* (pp. 239-261). Nashville: Vanderbilt University Press.
  19. 2000. Naturalism, pragmatism, and design. *Journal of Speculative Philosophy* 14: 161-178.
  20. 1999. The pragmatism of Frederick L. Will. *Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society* 35: 475-500.
  21. 1996. Dewey, Quine, and pragmatic naturalized epistemology. *Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society* 32: 634-667.
  22. 1996. Pragmatism, feminism, sameness and difference. *Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society* 32: 65-105.
  23. 1995. The bedrock of experience: an assessment of James' proposals for a critical science of religion. In D. Capps & J. Jacobs (eds.), *The Struggle for Life: A Companion to William James' The Varieties of Religious Experience* (238-249). West Lafayette, IN: Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Monograph Series.
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## Reviews

1. 2017. Review of *Cambridge Pragmatism* by Cheryl Misak. *Journal for the History of Analytical Philosophy*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.15173/jhap.v5i3.3156>
2. 2013. Review of *Expressivism, Pragmatism, and Representationalism* by Huw Price. *Contemporary Pragmatism* 10: 193-200
3. 2013. Review of *Preludes to Pragmatism* by Philip Kitcher. *The Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society* 49: 443-447.
4. 2012. Review of *Truth and Skepticism* by Robert Almeder. *Notre Dame Philosophy Reviews* <http://ndpr.nd.edu/news/truth-and-skepticism/>

5. 2008. Review of *The Dynamic Individualism of William James* by James Pawelski. *The Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society* 44: 550-555.
6. 2006. Review of *How the Cold War Transformed Philosophy of Science* by George Reisch. *The Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society* 42: 167-171
7. 2004. Review of *Sidney Hook on Pragmatism, Democracy, and Freedom* edited by Robert Talisse and Robert Tempio. *The Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society* 40: 554-557.
8. 2004. Review of *Philosophical Tools for Technological Culture* by Larry Hickman. *Contemporary Pragmatism* 1: 184-187.
9. 2002. Review of *Ecological Psychology in Context* by Harry Heft. *The Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society* 38: 468-472.
10. 2001. Review of *Time in the Ditch: American Philosophy in the McCarthy Era* by John McCumber. *The Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society* 37: 677-681.
11. 1999. Review of *Pragmatism, Reason, and Norms* edited by Kenneth Westphal. *Ethics* 109: 492.
12. 1998. Review of *The Two Pragmatisms* by H.O. Mounce. *Ethics* 108: 837-838.
13. 1998. Review of *Structuring the World* by Sami Pihlström. *The Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy Newsletter*.

#### INVITED AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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| 2018 | Campbell's <i>Experiencing William James: Belief in a Pluralistic World</i> . Author Meets Critics session, SAAP, Indianapolis.        |
| 2018 | Truth in the Time of Trump. Hale Ethics Series, RIT.   |
| 2018 | Leveraging Student Discussions in Class (with Wade Robison). Teachers on Teaching Discussion Series, RIT.                              |
| 2017 | Dewey, Truth, and Critical Philosophy. John Dewey and Critical Philosophies for Critical Political Times, University College Dublin.   |
| 2016 | Ethical Theory, Ethical Practice: Ethical Frameworks for Real-Life Situations. Oregon Mental Health Consortium, Portland.              |
| 2015 | Pragmatism, Meaning, and Representation. Summer Institute in American Philosophy, University College Dublin.                           |
| 2015 | The Pragmatic Origins of Ethical Expressivism: Stevenson, Dewey, and the International Encyclopedia of Unified Science. SSHAP, Dublin. |
| 2015 | The Partial Eclipse of American Philosophy. SAAP, Grand Rapids, MI.  |

- 2013 Last Chapters for Pragmatism and Logical Empiricism: John Dewey and the *International Encyclopedia of Unified Science*. Lehigh University.
- 2012 Almeder's *Truth and Skepticism*. Author Meets Critics session, APA Pacific Division Meeting, Seattle.
- 2011 Pragmatic Truth. Nazareth College.
- 2011 Truth and Inquiry. Nordic Pragmatism Conference, Copenhagen.
- 2010 Truth, Ethics and Pragmatism. New York Pragmatist Forum, New York.
- 2009 Pragmatic Truth and Scientific Practice. SPSP, Minneapolis.
- 2007 Ethics and Truth. Hale Ethics Series, RIT.
- 2006 Epistemological Lessons of the Evolution/IDC Debate. SAAP, San Antonio.
- 2005 The Value Commitments of Pragmatism. William James Society at the APA Eastern Division Meeting, New York.
- 2005 Response to David Hildebrand's "Diversity, Inclusion, and Exclusion: A Reply to Capps." SAAP, Bakersfield, CA.
- 2004 Truth and Ignorance. The Ethics and Epistemologies of Ignorance, Penn State
- 2004 Truth Matters. Ohio University
- 2003 Response to Bernardo Cantens' "Overcoming the Evidentialist's Challenge: Peirce's Conjectures of Instinctive Reason and the Reality of God." APA Eastern Division Meeting, Washington, D.C.
- 2003 Sidney Hook: The Hero in History and Democracy. RIT.
- 2003 A Feminist Response to Philosophical Skepticism (with Evelyn Brister). APA Central Division Meeting, Cleveland
- 2003 Skepticism, Feminist Epistemology and Contextualism (with Evelyn Brister). Society for Skeptical Studies at the APA Pacific Division Meeting, San Francisco.
- 2003 Response to James Pawelski's "William James on Crossing the Internal Divide: A Reply to Richard Gale." SAAP, Denver.
- 2002 Pragmatism and the McCarthy Era. SAAP, Portland.
- 2001 Response to Hugh McDonald's "Dewey's Holism." SAAP, Las Vegas.
- 2000 Response To Robert Meyers' "Immediacy, Knowledge, and Naturalism." The Future of Realism in the American Tradition of Pragmatic Naturalism, SUNY Buffalo.
- 2000 Can Beliefs Be Prima Facie Justified? The Creighton Club, Skaneateles, NY.
- 2000 Naturalism, Pragmatism, and Design. SAAP at the APA Central Division Meeting, Chicago.
- 2000 Creationism vs. Pragmatism. SAAP, Indianapolis.
- 2000 Is Dewey's Model of Social Inquiry Defensible? SAAP, Indianapolis.
- 2000 Modest Naturalism. Connecticut College.
- 1999 Frederick Will's Pragmatic Naturalism. SAAP, Eugene, OR.

- 1996 Response to Hilary Kornblith’s “In Defense of a Naturalized Epistemology.” Can Epistemology Be Unified? SUNY Buffalo.
- 1996 Dewey, Quine, and Naturalized Epistemology. SAAP, Toronto.

#### AWARDS AND GRANTS

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- 2017 College of Liberal Arts Faculty Research Grant
- 2017 Student Learning Assessment Grant
- 2016 Provost’s Learning Initiative Grant
- 2015 College of Liberal Arts Faculty Development Grant
- 2015 College of Liberal Arts Faculty Research Grant
- 2011 College of Liberal Arts Faculty Development Grant
- 2010-2011 Professional Development Leave
- 2009 College of Liberal Arts Faculty Research Grant
- 2006 College of Liberal Arts Faculty Development Grant
- 2005-2006 College of Liberal Arts Miller Fellowship
- 2004 College of Liberal Arts Faculty Research Grant
- 2003 Provost’s Learning Initiative Grant (participant)
- 2002 Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy Joseph J. Blau Prize for “significant contribution to the history of American Philosophy”
- 2002 College of Liberal Arts Faculty Development Grant (with Babak Elahi)
- 2002 Finalist, Eisenhart Provost’s Teaching Award for Excellence in Teaching
- 2000 SAAP Ila and John Mellow Prize for “excellence in advancing the American philosophical tradition toward the resolution of current personal, social and political problems”
- 1996 SAAP Douglas Greenlee Prize for “the best paper presented at the annual meeting by a person holding a Ph.D. for no more than five years”
- 1992-1997 University Scholar, Northwestern University
- 1991-1992 University Fellow, Northwestern University

## TEACHING

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Courses Taught	Theories of Knowledge*, American Philosophy*, Contemporary Philosophy*, Modern Philosophy*, Symbolic Logic*, Philosophy of Science*, Seminar in Philosophy: Truth*, Seminar in Philosophy: Truth in the Time of Trump, Contemporary Moral Problems, Introduction to Philosophy*, Critical Thinking*, Special Topics: Advanced Logic, ST: Cornel West, ST: Barack Obama, ST: Evolution and Creationism, ST: Literature and Philosophy, ST: American Pragmatism and Realism, ST: The James Brothers, ST: Skepticism
	* Multiple times
Senior Theses Advised	Erika Strickland Au, Jeffrey Young*, Christopher Boone, Ashley Aberg, Anthony Ward, Kayla Emerson*, Tom Bojarski, Jeremy Berke*, Paul Taylor, Patricia Cadareanu, Emilio Collins*
	* Director

## SERVICE

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2016-2017	College of Liberal Arts Promotion Committee
2015-2016	College of Liberal Arts Tenure Committee
2014-2017	Academic Senate
2013-2014	Nominating Committee, William James Society
2012-2013	Chair, College of Liberal Arts Miller Fellowship Committee
2011-2013	Graduate Ethics Task Force
2010-2012	Smoking Policy Task Force
2008-2010	Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Committee
2007-2010	College of Liberal Arts Honors Advocate
2007-2009	Advisor, RITExploration Program
2007-2008	College of Liberal Arts Honors Coordinator
2007-2008	College of Liberal Arts Dean's Search Committee
2005-2010	College of Liberal Arts Student Research Fund Committee
2005-2008	College of Liberal Arts Faculty Development Committee
2005-2007	Judge, Institute Public Speaking Contest
2004-2005	College of Liberal Arts Research Committee
2003-2004	College of Liberal Arts General Education Steering Committee
2003	Conference Organizer, <i>Pragmatism and Technological Practice</i>
2002-2004	Chair, College of Liberal Arts Curriculum Committee
2001-2004	Advisor, RITExploration Program
2001-2005	College of Liberal Arts Curriculum Committee

2001-2003	American Studies Planning Committee
2001-2003	Academic Conduct Committee
2001	College of Liberal Arts Student Research Fund Committee
2000-2001	Philosophy Department Search Committee
1998-2000	Philosophy Department Search Committee
1998-2000	College of Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

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Refereeing	Princeton University Press, Routledge, Southern Illinois University Press, University of New Mexico Press, <i>HOPOS</i> , <i>Journal of the Philosophy of History</i> , <i>Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society</i> , <i>Contemporary Pragmatism</i> , <i>Science and Education</i>
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