

It Depends on What the Meaning of 'Is' is: The need for a Peircean-Scotistic Ontology

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3:00 PM | Friday, April 21, 2017

530 S. Kedzie Hall

Light refreshments served just before 3pm;
discussion to follow at 4pm.

The medieval philosopher Duns Scotus was an important interlocutor for Peirce. The main insight Peirce took from Scotus was that "reality" is not exhausted by what exists. But what, then, counts as real and, at the same time, would not count as existing. By thinking through Scotus, Peirce, and more recent thinkers, I try to show that structures are just such things. I will end by showing the importance of the Peircean-Scotistic ontology on thinking about structures such as race, gender, and class.