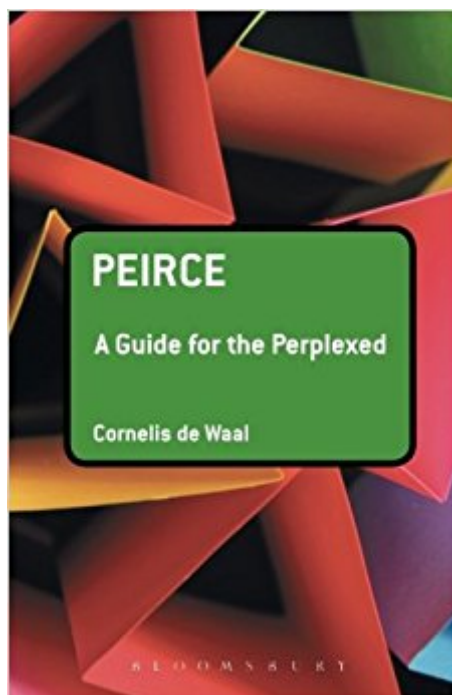


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# Peirce: A Guide For The Perplexed (Guides For The Perplexed)



## Synopsis

Charles Sanders Peirce, the founder of pragmatism, is a hugely important and influential thinker in the history of American philosophy. His philosophical interests were broad and he made significant contributions in several different areas of thought. Moreover, his contributions are intimately connected and his philosophy designed to form a coherent and systematic whole. *Peirce: A Guide for the Perplexed* is a clear and thorough account of Peirce's life and thought, his major works and ideas, providing an ideal guide to this important and complex thinker. The book introduces all the key concepts and themes in Peirce's thought, exploring his contributions to logic, pragmatism, truth, semiotics and metaphysics and demonstrating how his ideas developed into a coherent system of thought. Geared towards the specific requirements of students who need to reach a sound understanding of Peirce's ideas, the book serves as a clear and concise introduction to his philosophy. This is the ideal companion to study of this most influential and challenging of thinkers.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is very good, very clear introduction to Peirce, which -- as those who have succumbed to his mesmeric charm will know -- is a feat. What most people know about Peirce is his role as the founder of American pragmatism and something about his semiotics (semeiotics); this book starts with these and then explores the wilder reaches of his thought. The stumbling blocks (apart from the amusing triviality of how to pronounce his name) range from his propensity to create new obscure

names for everything to the amazing reconstruction of the standard norms of scientific, logical, and philosophical categorization (inevitably triadic). De Waal brings us through all of this with great care. The last chapter, on Peirce's cosmology, is astonishing: it reads like a mixture of contemporary astrophysics with Spinoza/Buddhism, but with a special Peircean flavour (matter is consolidated mind, the laws of the universe are created as it goes along, etc.). This is definitely the book to start with now.

The philosophy of Charles S. Peirce seems at the outset as tremendously simple, such that anyone could grasp it fully in a few sessions with the core texts--if by "Peirce's philosophy" one restrains it to "pragmatism." Fortunately, Peirce was by far more inventive and wide-ranging, investigating in great depth a wide number of different intellectual questions--and he was always original and breath-takingly unconventional. Simply to identify the scope and range of his interests is a daunting question. To go unaided into their midst is a kind of hubris I applaud--but always, at some point, one needs to hold someone wiser and more widely-read by the little finger to aid in navigating the sheer volume of material and the density of Peirce's thought. De Waal's "guide" is truly for the perplexed that lays out all the issues, the questions, and the "answers" in such a way that it can serve as a handbook to anyone's introduction to Peirce. I only wish I had this resource earlier in my life and that I'd consulted it more frequently than I have.

De Waal's book has been called a "milestone in the centennial of Peirce's death" (Jaime Nubiola), a short, readable introduction to an American scientist and thinker, the originator of philosophical pragmatism and semiotics, who has been called "the most original and versatile of American philosophers" (Paul Weiss), and yet is hardly known in the USA (although he's known much better in Europe and South America). This short book is accessible to the general reader, the student of Peirce's philosophy, while at the same time "extremely instructive for the expert" (Nubiola). There is simply no better introduction to the thought of this great American intellect than de Waal's book.

I have only got as far as Chapter 3, but so far this is an exceptionally clear and well-researched introduction to the philosophy of Charles Sanders Peirce - accessible to the general reader, but without dumbing down Peirce's sometimes challenging reasoning.

Arrived very quickly! Completely satisfied!

Very good intro to CS Peirce.

Very good Thank you

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