

Philosophy Department Colloquium Series

My paper is a critical response to the article published in the Journal of Economic Issues in December 2011. The article by Andrew Hodge and Alan Duhs called upon institutional economists and social theorists broadly to take heed of Cardinal Ratzinger's criticisms of the relativism, pluralism, and historicism in their theories. In general, Ratzinger accused social theorists of having lost sight of the moral truths that are essential to human wellbeing and salvation. Ratzinger, of course, is none other than Pope Benedict XVI, but in my paper I follow the lead of Hodge and Duhs and refer to him as Ratzinger. In our subsequent discussion, I would prefer to call him simply Benedict. The secular evolutionary and scientific point view of John Dewey is brought to bear on the traditional Catholic perspective of Benedict. The clash of these two quite different perspectives on human nature, human potentiality, the place of faith and reason in life, and on democratic society make for an exciting polemic.

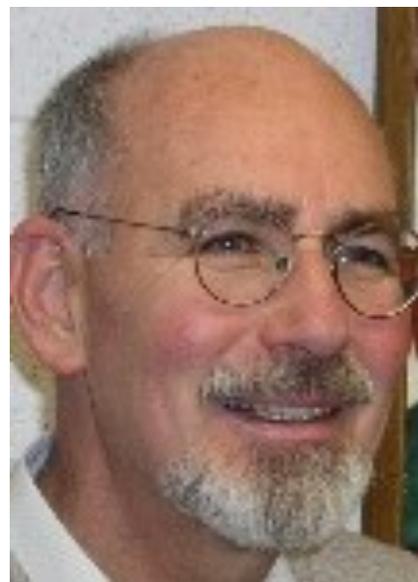
A Deweyan Response to the Proposal to Entertain Ratzinger's Criticism of Social Theory

Thursday, May 1st, 3:45 – 5:00 pm
Babbitt Academic Annex Building, Room 112

Dr. Dennis Rusche received a B.A. in philosophy from the University of Chicago and a doctorate in American Intellectual History from the University of Iowa. He was a professor at Northern Arizona University for over 3½ decades. Professor Emeritus Rusche has methodically studied the history of philosophy on the topic of methods. During his retirement, Rusche has been working on a theory of the four methods for generating knowledge. These methods are first the empirical, second the experiential or judicial, third the schematic or theoretic method, and fourth the evaluative or dialectic method. Recently, Dr. Rusche achieved an interpretive break-through on the essential differences and similarities among these methods.



Department of Philosophy



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For more information, please contact the Philosophy Department at 928-523-2648.