

Prof. Rex Li's Writings

Category: Study of John Dewey

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Chronology of Dewey's Metaphysics

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Summary/ Abstract: This is a chronology to put John Dewey's metaphysics in a developmental perspective.

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Chronology of Dewey's Metaphysics before *Experience and Nature*

Year			Reference
1880s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Psychology as Philosophic Method</i> (1886) • <i>The Psychological Standpoint</i> (1886) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Hegelianism, absolute, IDEE, universal consciousness. (2) Accepts metaphysics. (3) There is ultimate reality, discovered by psychology. 	Li (2020: 85-89)
1887	John Dewey was criticized by Hodgson as "illusory psychology".		Li (2020: 90-91)
1890s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Some Stages of Logical Thought</i> (1900) • <i>Studies in Logical Theory</i> (1903) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Dewey acknowledges the development of science and scientific inquiry. (2) He found logic (Aristotelian, empirical, transcendental) inadequate to explain scientific inquiry. (3) He proposed abandoning "thought in general" and "reality in general" and favored specific problems and experience. (4) He proposed instrumental logic. (5) His works were hailed by William James. 	Li (2020: 164) Dykhuzen (1973: 83)
1905*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Postulate of Immediate Empiricism</i> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Rejects metaphysics. (2) Empiricism, functionalism, instrumentalism need no metaphysics. (3) From experience to function to meaning. 	Li (2020: 240-241) Dykhuzen (1973: 173)
1910	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Some implications of anti-intellectualism</i> 	It is contradictory to have metaphysics for empiricism.	Dykhuzen (1973: 173)
Circ 1911-12	John Dewey exchanged with Woodbridge and noted that upholding empiricism need not rule out metaphysics.		Dykhuzen (1973: 173)

*A good summary of ideas in early Columbia Years (1905 – 1914) in Dykhuzen (p.120-135).

Year			Reference
1909	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Influence of Darwin on Philosophy</i> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Evolution: experience is active adjustment and coordination. (2) An act of a certain specific quality. (3) John Dewey tried to argue for a new philosophy against fixity. 	<p>Dykhuizen (1973: 173)</p> <p>Browning, Introduction.</p>
1915	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Subject-matter of Metaphysical Inquiry</i> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Metaphysics is possible and necessary. (2) Science can “reveal certain ultimate traits of existence”. (3) There is universality in “diverse existence, interaction, change”. (4) Not the traditional “ultimate causation”, potentiality, teleology, no conscious universe, but diversity, specificity, change. 	<p>Dykhuizen (1973: 174)</p>
1916	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Introduction to Essays in Experimental Logic</i> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Experience is nature. (2) Organism and environment merge to become experience. (3) Experience includes consciousness and unconsciousness. (4) Experience to denote the focal physical features of a certain appearance to be understood. 	<p>Dykhuizen (1973: 176)</p>