

## **Abstract**

### **On the Metaphysics and methodology of pragmatism**

It is generally assumed that pragmatism does not have a metaphysics perhaps due to its emphasis on scientific methodology and its opposition to rigid metaphysics. This general position, viewed from a superficial angle appears plausible.

However at a deeper level of analysis, pragmatism is not completely at odds with metaphysics. Indeed, the methodology of pragmatism which appears to be eclecticism(though some argue that it is syncretic) points at the metaphysics underlying its philosophy.

This paper uncovers and elaborates on the nature of metaphysics as well as its methodology. It contends that the metaphysics that informs pragmatism is one that conceives reality as fluid, flexible and amenable to human manipulation. This obviously is in contrast with foundationalists who see reality as eternal, absolute and unchanging.

The paper further sheds some light on the implications of the eclectic methodology which flows from the fluid conception of reality that characterizes pragmatism.

It concludes that the opposition between pragmatism and metaphysics is apparent and not real and that the distinction between them can only hold if all metaphysics is rigid and absolute.

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