

James and Whitehead - assemblage and systematisation of a mosaic philosophy of deep empiricism

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William James, with characteristic modesty, expressed the hope that one day his ideas concerning radical empiricism might serve as the nucleus for the crystallisation of a respectable system of philosophy. A.N. Whitehead greatly admired William James and considered him to have opened up a new epoch in philosophy. In the preface to *Process and Reality*, Whitehead famously expresses his great indebtedness to Bergson, James and Dewey and describes his 'preoccupation' to 'rescue their type of thought from the charge of anti-intellectualism'. I propose in my paper to briefly explore one sense in which Whitehead sought to systematise the type of thought assembled by James. Specifically, I will suggest that Whitehead systematises radical empiricism into a 'deep empiricism' that lends new weight to James's vision of a non-foundational 'mosaic' philosophy: 'in radical empiricism there is no bedding; it is as if the pieces clung together by their edges, the transitions experienced between them forming their cement' (James, *A World of Pure Experience*, 1912/2003: 45).