

PRAGMATISM

An event organised by MARC
(Manchester Architecture Research Centre)

New Pragmatism in Architecture and Design: Zeitgeist not Method Dr Gavin Melles (Faculty of Design, Swinburne University)

Pragmatism as a practice oriented and instrumental philosophical movement emerged in the late 19th and early twentieth century through the work of Charles Pierce, William James and John Dewey in the USA. Following a loss of currency in the fifties and sixties of the past century, pragmatism reemerged in it's neopragmatist form in the latter part of the 19th century through the work of particular philosophers, including perhaps principally with Richard Rorty, to reinvigorate discussion about the contribution of philosophy to many domains of human life. Most recently architecture and design have explored the potential relevance of (neo)pragmatism to the work of a generation of designers and architects looking for a socially responsible and aesthetic esprit that might explain their current work and inspiration. In this lecture I attempt to explain some of the foundational pragmatic concepts, their application in architecture and design, and the work that remains to fully explore the neopragmatist agenda for practice and theory in the 21st century.

Dr Gavin Melles is lecturer in the Faculty of Design, Swinburne University of Technology (Melbourne, Australia). His education background is Linguistic Anthropology (Master Linguistics, University of Costa Rica) and Education (Doctor of Education, Deakin University). His research interests are in the areas of Design Research and Methodologies, including Pragmatism in Design. His recent work has been published in *Artifact*, *Design Studies*, *Design Issues*, *European Journal of Engineering Education*, *Research in Post-Compulsory Education*, *Ethnography of Education*, and other journals and books. He supervises Research Students in Design, Engineering and Education.

Humanities Bridgeford Street, 1.69

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Campus map: www.manchester.ac.uk/map
Free admission. No reservation required



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