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Dewey and pragmatic religious naturalism

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Abstract

This chapter deals with the socially oriented, pragmatically naturalist conception of religious faith John Dewey developed in *A Common Faith* and elsewhere, as well as Dewey's influence on later pragmatist and naturalist currents in the philosophy of religion. In particular, Dewey's distinction between "the religious", on the one hand, and actual historical religions, on the other, is explained and discussed. According to Dewey--the most important classical pragmatist following James--the religious aspects of experience can be appreciated without metaphysical commitments to anything supernatural. Dewey's pragmatism thus seeks to emancipate "the religious" from the dogmatism and supernaturalism typical of traditional religious metaphysics. Dewey's relation to Wittgensteinian philosophy of religion, and the role played by metaphysics and the criticism of metaphysics in both, are also examined.

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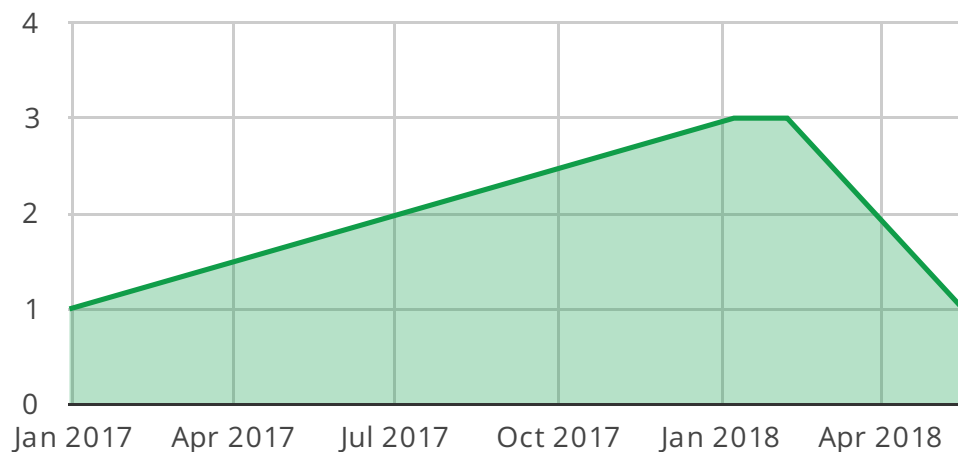
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