



## Believing and Acting: The Pragmatic Turn in Comparative Religion and Ethics (Hardback)

By G. Scott Davis

Oxford University Press, United Kingdom, 2012. Hardback. Condition: New. New.. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*. How should religion and ethics be studied if we want to understand what people believe and why they act the way they do? In the 1980s and 90s postmodernist worries about led to debates that turned on power, truth, and relativism. Since the turn of the century scholars impressed by cognitive science have introduced concepts drawn from evolutionary biology, neurosciences, and linguistics in the attempt to provide naturalist accounts of religion. Deploying concepts and arguments that have their roots in the pragmatism of C. S. Peirce, Believing and Acting argues that both approaches are misguided and largely unhelpful in answering the questions that matter: What did those people believe then? How does it relate to what these people want to do now? What is our evidence for our interpretations? Pragmatic inquiry into these questions recommends an approach that questions grand theories, advocates a critical pluralism about religion and ethics that defies disciplinary boundaries in the pursuit of the truth. Rationality, on a pragmatic approach, is about solving particular problems in medias res, thus there is no hard and fast...



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