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## *Peirce and the Conduct of Life*

Although Charles Sanders Peirce (1839–1914) is regarded as the founding father of pragmatism and a key figure in the development of American philosophy, his practical philosophy remains under-acknowledged and misinterpreted. In this book, Richard Kenneth Atkins argues that Peirce did in fact have developed and systematic views on ethics, on religion, and on how to live, and that these views are both plausible and relevant. Drawing on a controversial lecture Peirce delivered in 1898 and related works, he examines Peirce's theories of sentiment and instinct, his defense of the rational acceptability of religious belief, his analysis of self-controlled action, and his pragmatic account of practical ethics, showing how he developed his views and how they interact with those of his great contemporary William James. This study is essential for scholars of Peirce and for those interested in American philosophy, pragmatism, philosophy of religion, philosophy of action, and ethics.

RICHARD KENNETH ATKINS is Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Boston College. He is the author of *Puzzled?! An Introduction to Philosophizing* (2015) and numerous essays on the philosophy of Charles Sanders Peirce.

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# Peirce and the Conduct of Life

Sentiment and Instinct in Ethics and Religion

RICHARD KENNETH ATKINS

*Assistant Professor of Philosophy*  
*Boston College*



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*For Božanka*

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