

Charles Sanders Peirce Bio

Charles Sanders Peirce was an American philosopher, scientist and logician born on September 10, 1839 to his father Benjamin Pierce. His father, a notable Harvard mathematician and astronomer, would start in Charles S. Peirce a lifelong interest in logic and math. Although he did not lead a life of privilege, the immense amount of writings he left behind would turn into a legacy that is still being studied today.

Between 1855 and 1859, Charles S. Peirce attended Harvard University. During his time attending college, Peirce decided to study logic through the works of other philosophers, such as Kant and Aristotle. After studying their works, Peirce disagreed with the works published by Kant and decided to dedicate his life to study and research logic. Upon graduating, he decided to remain on campus for another year to earn a Master of Arts.

Peirce would continue his education until 1863, where he began working for the U.S. Coastal and Geodetic Services. The main purpose of his employment was to conduct surveys and geodetic investigations, as well as being tasked with solving practical and theoretical problems throughout his tenure at his appointment. Through Peirce's work, he had access to other logicians and gained some recognition for the work he put into while developing Boolean logic and relatives from British Logicians W.S. Jevons and Augustus De Morgan. He also traveled overseas several times to Europe for his work for the Coastal Service.

Though Peirce remained employed by the U.S. Coastal services, in 1879 he was elected to a professor position in the Department of Mathematics at John Hopkins University, to teach logic. While being a professor, he continued to develop a theory of relatives and quantifiers. These theories were published with his colleague O.H. Mitchell in the 1883 *Studies in Logic, A theory of Probable inference*. However, this position would not last as his personal life took center stage and he was ultimately removed due to a scandal.

Peirce would not gain much recognition during his lifetime and suffered many hardships, including becoming homeless. His friends eventually had to raise money to support him, and he died without widespread recognition. But he left behind thousands of pages of notes, showing a brilliance that is still being deciphered today. Charles Sanders Peirce's work has lived on with many intellectual societies being founded to understand and apply the work and theories he developed over a hundred years ago to the problems of today.

Works Cited

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