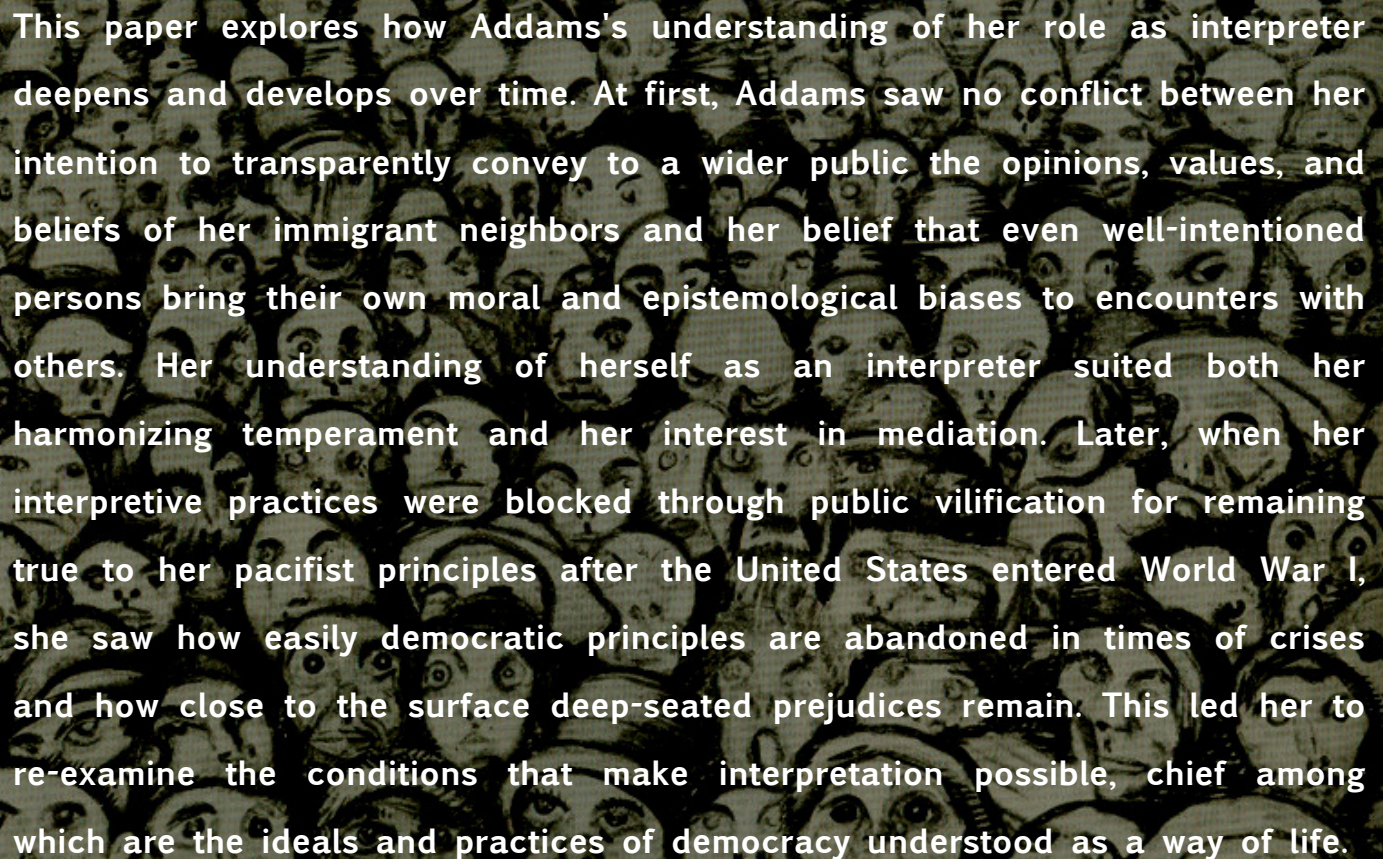


## Jane Addams: Sympathetic Interpretation as Democratic Practice

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This paper explores how Addams's understanding of her role as interpreter deepens and develops over time. At first, Addams saw no conflict between her intention to transparently convey to a wider public the opinions, values, and beliefs of her immigrant neighbors and her belief that even well-intentioned persons bring their own moral and epistemological biases to encounters with others. Her understanding of herself as an interpreter suited both her harmonizing temperament and her interest in mediation. Later, when her interpretive practices were blocked through public vilification for remaining true to her pacifist principles after the United States entered World War I, she saw how easily democratic principles are abandoned in times of crises and how close to the surface deep-seated prejudices remain. This led her to re-examine the conditions that make interpretation possible, chief among which are the ideals and practices of democracy understood as a way of life.

*This event is part of the Fourth Annual Atlantic Coast Pragmatist Meeting  
Contact Tom Burke in Philosophy for Details*

Friday, March 27, 3:30pm  
Wardlaw College, Room 126

*open to the public*

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