



XXV WORLD CONGRESS OF PHILOSOPHY ROME 2024

1ST - 8TH AUGUST 2024

Round table

Aristotle and the Aristotelian tradition across boundaries

Presenters:

Ennio De Bellis (Salento University - Research Centre on the Aristotelian Tradition in the 15th and 16th centuries)
Silvia Fazzo (University of Eastern Piedmont, Aristotelica OJS)

Co-Presenters:

Demetria Sfendoni (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki - Interdisciplinary Centre for Aristotle Studies)
Christopher Sauder (Providence College, USA)
Melina Mouzala (University of Patras)

Programme

Lettere e Filosofia - Aula IV, Monday 5

09.00-09.10:

E. De Bellis, with Silvia Fazzo Introductory remarks

09.10-10.30:

S. Fazzo, Aristotelica for the sake of "Aristotle across Boundaries": an integrated project

E. De Bellis, *The discussion on the immortality of the soul in the 15th century.*

D. Sfendoni, *The role of Aristotelian tradition in contemporary science.*

M. G. Mouzala, *Simplicius on Nature as ἀρχή and αἰτία in Aristotle's Physics II. 1-3.*

C. Sauder, *Hegel, Heidegger and the Deconstruction of the Aristotelian Tradition.*

10.30-11.00:

Discussion

Argumentaire

What is new in the current way of investigating Aristotle's thought and intellectual tradition? Speakers will give an idea of different approaches.

A new journal – the first in this field – has been launched since 2021. This covers not only Aristotle but also aristotelianism which is the field of the Research Centre on the Aristotelian Tradition in the 15th and 16th centuries.

Two series of events, “Aristotle across Boundaries I” (2023) and “Aristotle across Boundaries II” (2024) have been held at the University of Eastern Piedmont as Associated events of the World Congress of Philosophy “Thinking across Boundaries”. Such WCP Associated Events can be seen at the CNR webpage of the Journal, aristotelica.cnr.it

All of these proved successful. We will consider the reasons for that. Some preliminary remarks, as follows, might help.

More than any other philosophical current Aristotelianism operated as a commentary tradition. Based on the texts of the Master - on their precise wording and terminology - Aristotelian philosophy found in the commentary format not only a means of transmission, but also a preferred tool for the development of doctrine. A closed system, but not a static one, it evolved in two main directions: internal consistency and external competitiveness. Thus, the basic aim was, on the one hand, systematic coherence and didactical proficiency; on the other, fuller responsiveness to the various issues that emerged in the long span of time between Aristotle and the last traces of an Aristotelian school.

Its developments directly answer the requirements of the school: simplicity, doctrinal consistency, clarity of exposition, and a strong appeal to the authority of the ancients and of Aristotle in particular, especially with regard to basic philosophical subjects such as logic and physics. In this way, mediated and restructured by generations of commentators, Aristotelianism came to constitute the universal grammar of philosophical language and scholarly thought.

As a result, in Aristotle's aftermath, his writings were collected and reorganized increasingly by Peripatetics, until they progressively constituted a common legacy for philosophical schools, and for humankind as a whole. In this sense, Aristotelianism is still today a general grammar of rational thought and a foundation for scholarly dialogue.

Abstracts

- Silvia Fazzo discusses the scientific project linked to the journal *Aristotelica*. *Aristotelica* is a peer-reviewed journal devoted to Aristotle and Aristotelianism through the centuries with a special focus on the texts and textual traditions of Aristotle as a common intellectual background for European and Mediterranean cultures.
- Ennio De Bellis investigates a topic in which Aristotelianism confronts the boundary of being and existence. This topic is the problem of the immortality of the soul as it is discussed in the 15th century, which is at the origin of a discussion that will mark the entire 15th and 16th centuries. These issues are discussed at an annual conference on the Aristotelian tradition held in Sessa Aurunca (Caserta - Italy).
- Demetra Sfondoni investigates to what extent contemporary science can still draw on Aristotelian epistemology, particularly in disciplines where the qualitative dimension prevails over the quantitative. These topics are discussed in a series of conferences organized by her directed Interdisciplinary Centre for Aristotle Studies
- Melina G. Mouzala examines Simplicius' reception of Aristotle's philosophy of Nature. She focuses on the thorny issue, accompanied by a long debate among ancient and modern scholars, whether φύσις should be understood as an active or a passive principle.
- Christopher Sauder will consider the questions posed by Martin Heidegger in the lecture courses of the 1920s concerning the very nature of Aristotle's ontology.