

CALL FOR PAPERS

# Aristotle and his predecessors on heat, pneuma and soul

*Prague, June 12-14, 2014*

A three-day international conference on the role of the concepts of heat, pneuma and soul in ancient Greek theories of life will take place in Prague, organized in cooperation between Charles University in Prague and the August-Boeckh-Antikezentrum, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. The organizers are **Hynek Bartoš** (Department of Philosophy, Charles University) and **Colin Guthrie King** (Institut für Philosophie, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin).

The confirmed speakers for the conference are **Gábor Betegh** (Central European University - Budapest), **Klaus Corcilius** (University of California/Berkeley), **Pavel Gregorić** (University of Zagreb), **Richard King** (Universität Bern), **James Lennox** (University of Pittsburgh), and **Anna Marmodoro** (University of Oxford). **Geoffrey Lloyd** (University of Cambridge) and **Philip van der Eijk** (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin) will give comments.

**To apply for presenting at the conference, please submit a proposal of 500-750 words to [hynek.bartos@centrum.cz](mailto:hynek.bartos@centrum.cz) by November 30, 2013.**

Accommodation and some expenses for travel are available for those whose presentations are selected, particularly for early-career scholars.

## Topics and questions

Aristotle famously conceived of the soul as the formal essence of such living things as have »instrumental body« (DA 2.1, 412a28–b1) and, in general, as the first actualization of a »physical, instrumental body« (σῶμα φυσικὸν ὀργανικόν, 412b5–6). There is a striking difference between the Aristotelian concept of a besouled being and the modern concept of an organism as a material system with physical and functional unity. Aristotle posits that living things cannot be explained exclusively by reference to their parts (be they material or functional) and processes that occur in them. His theory of living things features as its central tenet that these must be understood in terms of a unity including both matter and form, a unity provided for by the soul.

The hylomorphic theory of living things and its attending assumptions has been the object of much debate in recent decades. It is generally recognized that Aristotle's psychology is the source for his unified theory of living beings and their life processes. As such, Aristotle's is a general psychology, including some of what would now be considered physiology. The sources and contexts for the »physiological« aspects of Aristotle's psychology are manifold, and seldom themselves the object of discussion.

In this conference, we propose to focus upon two particular, and particularly difficult, components of Aristotle's psychology: the concepts of innate heat, and connate pneuma. The purpose of the conference is to contextualize these concepts within the history of both the metaphysics of the body and ancient medical theory of life and the soul. The topic of the conference is thus Aristotle's theory of innate heat and pneuma within the framework of his theory of bodily processes, animal movement and psychology, and in the context of ancient Greek philosophy and medicine. We also welcome contributions concerning the background of this topic in ancient Greek religion, as well as cross-cultural studies of concepts of life including non-Greek science.

A more detailed outline of problems and questions related to the topic of the conference may be found under:

[www.antikezentrum.hu-berlin.de/aristotle-on-heat](http://www.antikezentrum.hu-berlin.de/aristotle-on-heat).



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