

SYMPOSIUM – AUTHOR MEETS CRITICS

Louis Groarke's (St. Francis Xavier University) book,
An Aristotelian Account of Induction: Creating Something from Nothing
(McGill-Queen's Press, Fall 2009)

Organiser: Paolo Biondi (University of Sudbury, Laurentian University)

Résumé:

- Symposium in the form of author meets critics
 - Author: Louis Groarke (St. Francis Xavier University)
 - Book: *An Aristotelian Account of Induction: Creating Something from Nothing* (McGill-Queen's Press, Fall 2009)
 - Groarke's book explains Aristotelian view of induction and insight, and describes intellectual process through which access 'first principles' of human thought
 - Groarke offers synoptic treatment of a wide range of contemporary issues in an Aristotelian vein (problem of induction, laws of logic, universal claims of science and metaphysics, moral truths)
 - Critics comment on role of *nous* (intuition or insight) in epistemology, moral induction, induction in science, and historical development of Aristotle's views on induction
-
- Un symposium selon le format d'auteur rencontre ses critiques
 - L'auteur : Louis Groarke (St. Francis Xavier University)
 - Livre : *An Aristotelian Account of Induction: Creating Something from Nothing* (McGill-Queen's Press, Fall 2009)
 - Le livre suit une approche aristotélicienne afin d'expliquer l'induction et l'intuition (ou la compréhension)
 - Groarke décrit le processus intellectuel selon lequel on saisit les 'premiers principes' de la pensée humaine
 - Groarke nous offre un traitement synoptique et aristotélicien de plusieurs problèmes dans la philosophie contemporaine (tels le problème de l'induction, les lois de la logique, les énoncés universelles dans les sciences et la métaphysique, les vérités morales)
 - Les critiques nous livrent des commentaires sur le rôle du *nous* (l'intuition) dans l'épistémologie, l'induction moral, l'induction dans les sciences ainsi que le développement historique de la pensée d'Aristote au sujet de l'induction

Critics:

- Joseph Novak (University of Waterloo),
- John Thorp (University of Western Ontario),
- Paul Schollmeier (University of Nevada, Las Vegas),
- Wayne Fenske (Kwantlen University College),
- Ernie McCullough (St. Mary's University College),
- Slobodan Perovic (University of Pittsburgh),
- Ginger Hegedus (King's University College)
- Paolo Biondi (University of Sudbury, Laurentian University)

Morning session:

1) Joseph Novak (University of Waterloo)

Title: TBA

Abstract: TBA

2) John Thorp (University of Western Ontario)

Title: *Nous* chez nous

Abstract: Louis Groarke trace le développement de l'idée aristotélicienne de l'intuition (*nous*) à travers les siècles, jusqu'à nos jours, où, selon lui, elle joue toujours un rôle essentiel en épistémologie. La présente communication propose quelques remarques critiques sur cette histoire et sur sa conclusion.

3) Paul Schollmeier (University of Nevada, Las Vegas)

Title: Aristotelian Moral Induction: Theoretical and Practical

Abstract: TBA

4) Wayne Fenske (Kwantlen University College)

Title: Moral induction

Abstract: TBA

Afternoon session:

5) Ernie McCullough (St. Mary's University College)

Title: Plato to Poincaré: *Epagoge* in a New Light

Abstract: The general theme of the paper is that induction appears in Plato and is realized in the 17th century thinker Jean Poincaré in the form familiar to Greek and mediaeval thinkers. The paper supports and commends Groarke's interpretations.

6) Slobodan Perovic (University of Pittsburgh)

Title: Where First Principles Come to an End: Aristotle's Induction and the Challenge of Modern Science

Abstract: This paper will offer some comments on chapter 9 ("Where Science Comes to an End") of L. Groarke's "An Aristotelian Account of Induction."

7) Ginger Hegedus (King's University College)

Title: TBA

Abstract: TBA

8) Paolo Biondi (University of Sudbury, Laurentian University)

Title: Reflections on Creativity and the Art of Induction

Abstract: This paper will assess the main claim of chapter 8 that induction is an act of creativity, creating something from nothing. The critic will offer several possible explanations for the "creative illumination" and "leap of understanding" that take place in induction and which the author describes as "the point where sense perception is somehow transmuted into thought proper."

AUTHOR:

Louis Groarke (St. Francis Xavier University)

Louis Groarke is Associate Professor of philosophy at St. Francis Xavier University. Areas of research are Ethics, Applied Ethics, Political Philosophy, Aesthetics, Argumentation Theory, History of Philosophy, and Aristotle. He has published numerous articles in these areas as well as the book *The Good Rebel: Understanding Freedom and Morality* (Fairleigh Dickinson UP, 2001), whose goal is to articulate, in Neo-Aristotelian communitarian, and pragmatist terms, a defensible moral theory of personal freedom.

CRITICS:

Paolo Biondi (University of Sudbury, Laurentian University)

Paolo Biondi is Assistant Professor in the Department of Philosophy at the University of Sudbury, Laurentian University. His area of concentration in research is in ancient Greek philosophy, primarily Aristotle. He has published a monograph on Aristotle, *Aristotle's Posterior Analytics II.19: Introduction, Greek Text, Translation, Commentary, and Critical Analysis* (Laval UP, 2004).

Wayne Fenske (Kwantlen University College)

Wayne Fenske, teaches a variety of courses in the Department of Philosophy at Kwantlen University College. His research interests are in meta-ethics and ethical theory. His current research focuses on the nature of practical reason and its relation to moral obligation. He has published in *Dialogue* and *The Journal of Value Inquiry*.

Ernie McCullough (St. Mary's University College)

Ernie McCullough is Adjunct Professor in the Department of Philosophy at St. Mary's University College. His research interests include medieval philosophy (Albertus Magnus and Thomas Aquinas), history and philosophy of science, logic, ethics and bioethics, metaphysics and epistemology.

Joseph Novak (University of Waterloo)

Joseph Novak is a faculty member at the University of Waterloo and currently Acting Chair of the Department of Philosophy. His areas of research are ancient and medieval philosophy, and he has published on Plato, Aristotle, Aquinas, and Brentano in *Apeiron*, *Notre Dame Journal of Formal Logic*, *History of Philosophy Quarterly*, and *Journal of Neoplatonic Studies* and society and conference proceedings.

Slobodan Perovic (University of Pittsburgh)

Slobodan Perovic is currently a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Center for Philosophy of Science, University of Pittsburgh. His areas of specialization include the History and Philosophy of Science as well as Metaphysics. He has published articles in *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science Part B: Studies in History and Philosophy of Modern Physics*, *Max Planck Institute for History of Science Conference Proceedings*, and *Acta Biotheoretica*.

Paul Schollmeier (University of Nevada, Las Vegas)

Paul Schollmeier is professor of philosophy at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He is a specialist in ancient Greek philosophy and in moral and political philosophy, and he is the author of *Other Selves: Aristotle on Personal and Political Friendship* (SUNY, 1994) and *Human Goodness: Pragmatic Variations on Platonic Themes* (Cambridge, 2006) and co-editor of *The Greeks and Us: Essays in Honor of Arthur W. H. Adkins* (Chicago, 1996). He has also written numerous articles on Aristotle.

John Thorp (University of Western Ontario)

John Thorp is a member of the Department of Philosophy, and the Graduate Faculty of Theology, at the University of Western Ontario. His area of concentration in teaching and research is ancient philosophy, particularly Aristotle. Recent publications include 'Aristotle on the Unity of Consciousness' in *The Achilles of Rationalist Psychology* (Springer Verlag, 2008) and 'Splitting the Semantic Atom: Aristotle on Compound Nouns', *Apeiron* (2009). He is a past president of the Canadian Philosophical Association.