

Contemporary Perspectives on Aristotle's *Physics*

workshop in Ligerz, 26th to 29th of January, 2018

As part of its [Swiss Doctoral Programme in Philosophy](#), the Centre for the Philosophy and Theology of Being at the University of Lucerne: οὐσία, is organising a small and informal workshop in beautiful Ligerz.

For all questions and inquiries, please write to the workshop organiser, philipp.blum@philosophie.ch.

CfP. In his *Physics*, Aristotle presents a challenging metaphysics of change, matter, motion and time, and develops both the matter/form and the potentiality/actuality distinctions, of crucial importance to his overall system. The aim of this informal 3 day workshop is to ask and address contemporary questions about Aristotle's topics and views, and explore the potential of his theory for systematic metaphysics, particularly, but not exclusively, with respect to the problem of change, contemporary theories of location, the ontology of time, event-based theories of locational adverbials, the instant of change, contemporary power metaphysics and continuum-based accounts of the paradoxes of motion.

Participants. Participants should arrive by Wednesday evening and stay at least until Sunday noon. They should commit to have a first draft / extended abstract of their paper ready by 23th of April, read at least some of those of the others in advance and make an effort at reading some of the other material suggested by the other participants. They should commit to staying in Ligerz for the whole duration of the conference, except of course for the joint excursions to the regions' vineyards and the shores of the lake of Biel/Bienne.

Location. The conference takes place in the beautifully located bilingual village of Ligerz / Gléresse, on the shores of the lake of Biel/Bienne (also bilingual):



Talks and meals are at the Aarbergerhaus, where a beamer and facilities to print out handouts are available. Participants stay at the so-called "Louis Haus", where there's also a small bar for late-night drinks. When you get out of the train arriving either from Neuchâtel or from Biel/Bienne, and you face the mountain and the church (turning your back to the lake), the Aarbergerhaus is to your right (in the direction of Biel), about 150 m along the main road. You reach it after passing by the hotel "Kreuz" and by going through a garden door located at your left (facing Biel), just before there is a street for cars on your right going over a small bridge (in the direction of the lake). Please come there when you arrive. (The Louis-Haus, in contrast, is to your left, about 50m through the pedestrian street, on your right just before the fountain).

Programme:

Sat, 9-10.30 David Ebrey, The Definition of Matter in Physics I

Suggested reading: TBA

Sat, 10.45-11.45 discussion: change and Aristotelian forms, animated by Philipp Blum

Suggested reading: TBA

Sat, 13.30-15 Rögnvaldur Ingthorsson, Modernising the Aristotelian View of Causation

Suggested reading: abstract and paper on dropbox

Sat, 15.15-16.45 Jacob Rosen, Aristotle's Rejection of Atomism

Suggested reading:

- Furley, David J., 1969. "Aristotle and the Atomists on Infinity". in Düring, Ingemar (editor) *Naturphilosophie bei Aristoteles und Theophrast. Verhandlungen des 4. Symposium Aristotelicum veranstaltet in Göteborg, August 1966*, pp. 85-96. Heidelberg: Lothar Stiehm Verlag
- Koslicki, Kathrin, 2007. "Review of ?". *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 85(1): 160-163
- Miller, Jr., Fred D., 1982. "Aristotle Against the Atomists". in Kretzmann, Norman (editor) *Infinity and Continuity in Ancient and Medieval Thought*, pp. 87-111. Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press

Sat, 17-18 discussion: Aristotle's account of place, animated by Philipp Blum

Suggested reading: TBA

Sat, 18.15-18.30 Christoph Lichdi, Instantaneous as Bar-Lines?

Sun, 9-10.30 Philipp Blum, Aristotle and the Problem of Relations

Suggested reading:

- Fine, Kit, 2000. "Neutral Relations". *The Philosophical Review* 109(1): 1-33
- Castañeda, Hector-Neri, 1972. "Plato's Phaedo Theory of Relations". *The Journal of Philosophical Logic* 1(3-4): 467-480

Sun, 10.45-11.45 discussion: Agent vs. Event Causation, animated by Rögnvaldur Ingthorsson

Suggested reading:

- abstract on dropbox
- Buckareff, Andrei A., forthcoming. "A Critique of Substance Causation". *Philosophia*
- Hobbes Elements Body Ch IX-X (cf. dropbox)
- Whittle, Ann, 2016. "A Defense of Substance Causation". *Journal of the American Philosophical Association* 2(1): 1-20

Sun, 13.30-15 Takashi Oki, Aristotle on Zeno's Arrow

Suggested reading: paper on dropbox

Sun, 15.15-16.45 Christian Pfeiffer, The Topology and Identity-Conditions of Motion in Physics VIII

Suggested reading: TBA

Sun, 17.04 departure of the "vinifuni" to Prêles

Mon, 9-10.30 Chiara Martini, Merry-Go-Round. Can the Eternal Circular Motion of the Celestial Spheres Be Considered a Change?

Suggested reading: abstract on dropbox

Sun, 10.45-11.45 wrap-up discussion