

# The Concept of *Pneuma* after Aristotle

2-4 July 2015



## THURSDAY, JULY 2

09:30–09:45 Welcome and Introduction

### The Peripatetic Tradition

09:45–10:45 *Soul and Pneuma in Pseudo-Aristotle's De spiritu* (Pavel Gregoric, University of Zagreb)

10:45–11:00 Short coffee break

11:00–12:00 *Strato on Pneuma* (Luciana Repici, Torino University)

12:00–14:00 Lunch Break

14:00–15:00 *Aristotle's Second Breath: The Concept of Pneuma in the Ancient Greek Tradition of Natural Problems* (Michiel Meeusen, KU Leuven)

15:00–15:30 Coffee break

### Hellenistic and Early Roman Periods

15:30–16:30 *Pneuma in Hellenistic Medicine* (Heinrich von Staden, IAS, Princeton)

16:30–16:45 Short coffee break

16:45–17:45 *The Spirit of Stoicism* (Teun Tieleman, Utrecht)

## FRIDAY, JULY 3

### Hellenistic and Early Roman Periods (Continued)

09:30–10:30 *Asclepiades of Bythinia on Pneuma* (David Leith, Exeter)

10:30–10:45 Short coffee break

### Galen

10:45–11:45 *Galen's Account of the Lung as an Instrument of Pneumatic Elaboration* (Julius Rocca, HU Berlin)

11:45–13:45 Lunch break

13:45–14:45 *Vital Pneuma, Tonos and the Spirited Part of the Soul in Galen* (Julia Trompeter, Ruhr-Universität Bochum)

14:45–15:00 Short coffee break

15:00–16:00 *Pneuma in Galen: Physiology, Metaphysics and Aristotle* (Peter N. Singer, HU Berlin)

16:00–16:30 Coffee break

16:30–17:30 *"Tonic Movement": Pneumatic Dynamics and Motoricity according to Galen* (Armelle Debru, Paris)

17:30–17:45 Short coffee break

17:45–18:45 *"An Instrument of the Soul": Philosophical and Medical Context of Galen's Physiology of Pneuma* (Inna Kupreeva, Edinburgh)

19:30 Conference Dinner for speakers

## SATURDAY, JULY 4

### Neoplatonic Tradition

10:00–11:00 *The Pneumatic Body and the Animation of the Embryo* (James Wilberding, Ruhr-Universität Bochum)

11:00–11:30 Short coffee break

11:30–12:30 *The Neoplatonic Concept of the Pneumatic Ochema* (Bettina Bohle, TOPOI, Berlin)

12:30–14:30 Lunch Break

### Muslim and Byzantine Traditions

14:30–15:30 *Arab Physicians, Philosophers and Theologians on Pneuma* (Pauline Koetschet, CNRS)

15:30–16:00 Coffee Break

16:00–17:00 *Theories on Pneuma in the Work of the Late Byzantine Physician John Zacharias Aktouarios* (Petros Bouras-Vallianatos, King's College London)

17:00–17:30 Concluding Remarks

In the history of the concept of *pneuma*, the writings of Aristotle are considered a turning point: he develops a complex conception of *pneuma* and assigns it a central role in the generation, development and workings of the body and soul. After Aristotle, the importance and supremacy of *pneuma* in medical and philosophical thought is almost undisputed; yet, while it constitutes an important stage in this history, the period after Aristotle has attracted little attention. The aim of this conference is to fill this lacuna by focusing on post-Aristotelian conceptions of *pneuma*, and tracing changes in the history of ideas of *pneuma* from the early Hellenistic period to the early Middle Ages.

The conference will look at the concept of *pneuma* from a number of perspectives: (a) the role of *pneuma* in physics, psychology, physiology, embryology and pathology; (b) definitions of *pneuma* among different schools and where & why these views intersect, e.g. Peripatetic, Stoic, Medical (Dogmatic, Methodist, “Pneumatist”), Neoplatonist, Arabic; (c) *pneuma* in social & religious contexts—e.g., pagan, Talmudic, Christian, Islamic.

**The conference is free, but registration is necessary. Please register by 12.6.15.**

To register please send an email to: [pneumaafteraristotle@gmail.com](mailto:pneumaafteraristotle@gmail.com)

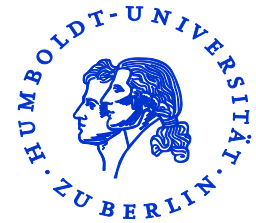
The conference format emphasizes discussion and collaboration. Abstracts and passages will be pre-circulated among participants about a month in advance. Sessions will last 60 minutes, from which 20-30 minutes will be dedicated to discussion.

Organisers:

Sean Coughlin (TOPOI / HU-Berlin)

David Leith (Exeter)

Orly Lewis (TOPOI / HU-Berlin)



**VENUE:**

TOPOI-Haus, Berlin-Mitte  
Hannoversche Straße 6  
D-10115 Berlin  
Seminar Room 1.03