

Philosophy Department Colloquium Series



Chris Turner

Christopher Turner is a Philosophy PhD. student (ABD) at DePaul University in Chicago. He is currently working on his dissertation, which investigates happiness and misfortune in the thought of Aristotle and the ancient Cynics. He has worked on Plato (with George Rudebusch), authored an article on the notion of counter-finality in the later Sartre, and is also translating Eugen Fink's *Spiel als Weltsymbol (Play as Symbol of the World)* into English for an academic press.

Presents:

Aristotle's Ideal Polis and Political Exclusion

Thursday, May 8th, 3:45 – 5:00 pm
Liberal Arts Building, Room 114

Aristotle announces, early on in his discussion of the ideal polis, that "the best form of government is the political order according to which anyone at all could fare well and live blessedly" (VII.2). Yet when we follow the thread of his discussion further it quickly becomes evident that even under this best form of government only a rather small minority of human beings (whom I refer to as 'elite males') will achieve the kind of happiness Aristotle has in mind. To claim that human beings are by nature political animals and yet only an elite can live a political life under even optimal conditions seems contradictory and so several attempts to explain this tension are examined before presenting a 'novel' interpretation. Ultimately it is argued that we can draw on generally overlooked or downplayed resources within Aristotle's own ethical and political thought to defend him from accusations of simply being elitist or inconsistent.



Department of Philosophy

For more information, please contact the Philosophy Department at 928-523-2648.