

"Κόσμος and καιρός in Plato's Criticism of φιλοποίησις"

Kryštof Boháček

Abstract

The central concept of the early and middle stage of Plato's thought is τέχνη in the sense of expertise and competence. The true τέχνη assumes an insight in the world of general paradigms. The general study of these paradigms, Plato calls ἐπιστήμη, which for him represents the only philosophical basis of a solid interpretation of the world. Philosophical alternatives Plato criticizes either as ingenious, but incompetent, or as mere experienced routine. This criticism culminates in the tenth book of Republic, where Plato rejects the entire tradition of Greek wisdom.

My lecture will follow this critique through the concept of καιρός and will try to identify a philosophical position, marked as φιλοποίησις. The persuasiveness of Plato's criticism will ultimately be verified by Aristotle's opinion in the first book of Rhetoric.