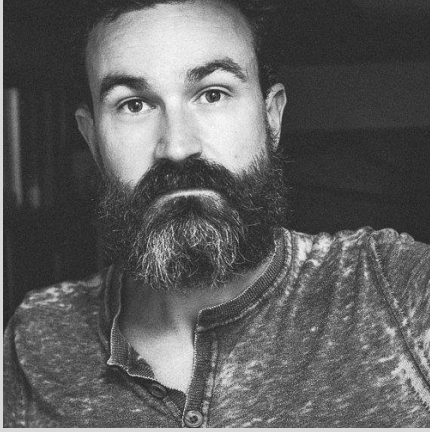


KOÇ UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY DAY

Friday, October 26th, 2018



Dr. Damien STOREY, Koc University, Philosophy Department

13.00-14.30 – SOSZ27

‘The Soul-Turning Metaphor in *Republic* Book 7’

I am going to present a reading of the soul-turning metaphor in book 7 of Plato’s *Republic*, which represents what Plato thinks education should achieve – it should turn the soul around. Commentators have found it difficult to square two sets of evidence: on the one hand, Socrates’ first statement of the soul-turning metaphor and, on the other, the way the metaphor is used in the rest of book 7. The confusion this causes greatly affects our understanding of the Cave allegory, and in particular how we interpret the prisoner’s first turn from shadows to statues, which Plato likens to turning the ‘whole soul’. For some, this represents the effect of (a) an education in music and gymnastics; for others, it represents the effect of (b) a mathematical education. I will argue that we have there are quite decisive reasons to favour (b).

Prof. Dr. Manuel KNOLL, İstanbul Şehir University, Philosophy Department

14.45 - 16.15 – SOSZ27

‘Aristotle’s *Politics*: Philological and Philosophical Perspectives’

The twentieth century has witnessed an impressive renaissance of Aristotle’s virtue ethics and political philosophy. However, scholars working on Aristotle’s *Politics*, such as Martha Nussbaum, ignored an important philological problem: should we regard the *Politics* as a unified work with a coherent theory or as a collection of earlier and later treatises? This talk argues that one cannot simply combine statements from different Books of the *Politics* and suggests a solution to the philological problem based on Aristotle’s distinction of four different tasks of constitutional theory. This perspective enables us to dissolve seeming contradictions between Aristotle’s statements about the best constitution and allows for a coherent interpretation of his political philosophy.



Prof. Dr. Thomas A. SZLEZÁK, University of Tübingen, Department of Classics

16.30 - 18.00 – SOSZ27

‘The Modern Picture of the Platonic Dialogue and its Origin with Friedrich Schleiermacher’

I am going to deal with the fundamental problems of Plato interpretation. Was Plato a thinker of the last principles of reality, i.e. of "archai", as Aristotle portrays him in his *Metaphysics* I 6 and many other passages, or was he an aporetic seeker, who never believed to have found a definite solution to any problem? And are his Dialogues self-contained works of literary autarky, as is generally believed since the German Romantic interpretation of the early 19th century, or do they point systematically beyond themselves? The talk is aimed at the correction of common hermeneutical errors in the assessment of the following four texts, or text corpora: (1) Plato’s criticism of writing in the *Phaedrus*, (2) the indirect tradition of Plato’s oral theory of principles, (3) the philosophical systems of Plato’s immediate pupils Speusippus, Xenocrates and Aristotle, and (4) the literary image of the dialectician in Plato’s Dialogues.

