

Pozvánka na přednášku v rámci přednáškového cyklu

Renesance a novověk II

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Mixture in the Renaissance

Medieval and Renaissance philosophers expended a great amount of effort on Aristotle's theory of mixture and developed various accounts of how mixts arise out of the four Greek classical elements. All sublunary bodies are mixtures of the four primary elements (fire, water, earth, air). In Aristotelian ontology, sublunary bodies are also stand-alone substances, composed out of matter and form. The need to describe mixed bodies in hylomorphic terms gave rise to a difficult puzzle: either the elements are kept in the mixt, and in this case we do not have a proper case of mixture, but a mere juxtaposition, a mechanical blend (*synthesis*); or they are not kept in the mixt, and in this case we have a simple case of corruption and generation of a new substance. The question that medieval and Renaissance commentators faced was thus whether the *forms* of the elements are kept in the final mixed substance, and if so, *how*. Zabarella cited four opinions that mapped the problem for the Renaissance: Avicenna, Averroes, Thomas Aquinas "with the rest of the latins", and Duns Scotus. In this lecture, we will go through the main views on the Aristotelian problem of mixture developed in the Renaissance and confront them with the legacy of these four medieval authorities.

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