

Pozvánka na přednášku v rámci přednáškového cyklu

**Renaissance a středověk II**

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**ARISTOTLE'S CONCEPT OF CHANCE  
AND SOME MEDIAEVAL INTERPRETATIONS**

In the first part of this paper I shall attempt to give a brief account of some of the more important aspects of Aristotle's view of chance. I shall start with Aristotle's metaphysical account of chance, since this is where Aristotle explains the meaning of chance. I shall then move on to Aristotle's application of chance in his physics, his use of chance in his ethics, followed by his rejection of determinism, which is closely related to his account of chance. In the second part I will then attempt to compare this account to some of the more important mediaeval interpretations. One of the striking features of Aristotle's concept of chance is that it presupposes a teleological context. The question arises as to whether or under what conditions it is possible to accept the presence of teleology in nature. The most important question raised by this paper is whether human beings can be free or whether they must be determined. If they can be free, are they the only undetermined beings in the universe? Or are there not metaphysical (as opposed to physical) grounds for believing that the future is inherently undetermined? While leading mediaeval philosophers denied the reality of chance and indeterminism as something incompatible with a providential God, the question is whether on this basis they did not introduce theological determinism undermining human freedom.

**22. 4. 2014 v 15:00 hod.**

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