

Aristotle on Experience of Pain

Master thesis

ÚFaR FF UK

Bc. Vojtěch Linka

Supervisor: Mgr. Robert Roreitner

Abstract in English:

In my master thesis, I focus on the problem of experiencing pain in Aristotle. My work is based on analysis of *Nicomachean Ethics* and *On the soul*. With these texts, I reconstruct Aristotle's theory of pain. I start with an analysis of pleasure and of the pair pleasure-pain, by which I gain basic material for further work. The most important idea here is that there is a connection between pleasure and activity (*energeia*). I will use this idea in the analysis of pain, too. Pain will be analyzed through passages where Aristotle explicitly mentions it and through a thought experiment, where I focus on how Aristotle would have explained chronic pain. After these analyses I will be able to formulate a theory of pain, where pain is understood as something which hinders activity. I interpret this theory in the context of Aristotle's psychology. After the analyses and interpretation, I am able, at the end of my work, answer the question how animals are experiencing pain.