Platonic Mimesis Revisited

Few other semantic fields pervade Plato's oeuvre, from the earliest to the latest works, in such a defining and ambivalent way as that of mimesis.

Starting with a colloquial usage in the early dialogues, the concept progressively gains significance, reflected not only in a quantitative increase of its use but especially in the large array of topics with which it is related. From considerations in the philosophy of language in the Cratylus to the critique of poetry and the ethical-psychological enquiry in the Republic, from the ontological analysis of the sophist in the homonymous dialogue and the cosmological myth of the Timaeus to the political thoughts in the Politicus and, finally, the musical and theological issues in the Laws: in all these very different subject areas, the semantics of mimesis obtain a central function and are, at the same time, evaluated very differently.

Not least because of this ambivalence in Plato, the notion of mimesis has had a deep influence on the history of aesthetics and on (the study of) literature up to the present time. It is thus also a subject of interdisciplinary interest beyond the study of antiquity.

The workshop “Platonic Mimesis Revisited” aims to analyse the semantics of mimesis across Plato’s dialogues thoroughly and with contributions of established scholars as well as junior researchers. Instead of focusing on aesthetic questions, the conference intends to take into view Plato’s whole work, and expressly the diversity of uses in a parallel and context-sensitive way.

LOCATION
Alte Aula (2–3 May): No. 81, Münzgasse 30
Alte Burse (4–5 May): No. 80, Bursagasse 1

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All welcome – no registration!
Thursday, 2 May 2019 (Alte Aula)

14.00 Tea and Coffee

14.45 Welcome addresses by the Faculty of Humanities and the Excellence Initiative represented by Angelina Linnemann

**SESSION 1: (EVERYDAY) LANGUAGE (PRE-REPUBLIC, CRATYLUS)**

Chair: Julia Pfefferkorn

Discussants: Nicoletta di Vita, Federica Gonzales-Luna

15.00 Michael Erler (Würzburg)

Performanz und Analyse. Mimesis als Nachmachen – ein Element traditioneller Paideia in Platons früheren Dialogen und seine Analyse in den Nomoi

15.50 Andrea Capra (Durham)

Imitatio Socratis from the Theatre of Dionysus to Plato’s Academy

16.40 Coffee Break

17.00 Anna Pavani (Köln)

Die Richtigkeit der sprachlichen Mimesis im Kratylos

**Evening Lecture**

19.30 Stephen Halliwell (St Andrews)

The Shifting Problems of Mimesis in Plato

Friday, 3 May (Alte Aula)

**SESSION 2: POETRY, PAIDEIA AND POLITICS I (REPUBLIC)**

Chair: Klaus Corcilius

Discussants: Ana Munte, Janis Tortora

9.00 Mary Margaret McCabe (King’s College, London)

The Wandering ‘We’: Plato’s Republic and the Question of Identity

9.50 Irmgard Männlein-Robert (Tübingen)

Mimesis für Philosophen oder: Vom Wert der Mimesis in Politeia und Nomoi

10.40 Coffee Break

11.00 Elenio Cicchini (IIISF Napoli)

Mimus und Mimesis in der platonischen Philosophie

11.45 Justin Vlasits (Tübingen)

Plato on Harmonic and Rhythmic Representation

**SESSION 3: TRUTH AND DECEIT (SOPHIST)**

Chair: Antonino Spinelli

Discussants: Sara Diaoco, Michele Solitario

15.00 Benedikt Strobel (Trier)

Originale und Abbilder, Wahrheit und Täuschung in Platons Sophistes

15.50 Lidia Palumbo (Federico II, Napoli)

Mimesi nel dialogo e mimesi del dialogo nel Sofista platonico

16.40 Coffee Break

17.00 Anna Pavani (Köln)

Die Richtigkeit der sprachlichen Mimesis im Kratylos

17.45 Michele Abbate (Salerno)

Der Sophist als mimētēs tōn onτōn (Soph. 235a1 ff.): Ontologische Implikationen

Saturday, 4 May (Alte Burse, Raum X)

**SESSION 4: COSMOS (TIMAEUS, POLITICUS)**

Chair: Michele Abbate

Discussants: Rodrigo Ferradas, Giovanni Panno

15.00 Francesco Fronterotta (La Sapienza, Roma)

Generation as mimēsis and kosmos as mimēma: Cosmological Model, Productive Function and the Arrangement of the chōra in Plato’s Timaeus

15.50 Klaus Corcilius (Tübingen)

Eikos Logos and the Imitation of the Good

16.40 Coffee Break

17.00 José Antonio Giménez (UANDES, Santiago de Chile)

Die Mimesis der Verfassungen im Politikos

17.45 Antonino Spinelli (Tübingen)

’Mimoumenoi tas tou theou periphoras’. Die Mimesis des Kosmos als menschliche Aufgabe im Timaios

Sunday, 5 May (Alte Burse, Raum X)

**SESSION 5: POETRY, PAIDEIA AND POLITICS II (LAWS)**

Chair: Irmgard Männlein-Robert

Discussants: Alina Noveanu, Laura Summa

9.30 Jörn Müller (Würzburg)

Psychologische Aspekte der Mimesis in Platons Nomoi

10.20 Myrthe Bartels (Durham)

Punishment in Plato’s “Truest Tragedy”

11.10 Julia Pfefferkorn (Tübingen/Salerno)

Role Models and Ethical Ideals: Mimetic Dance in Plato’s Laws

12.00 Closing Remarks