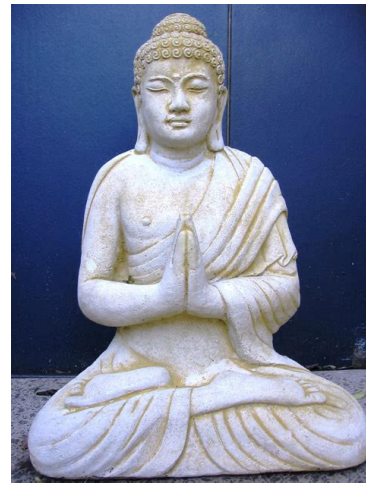
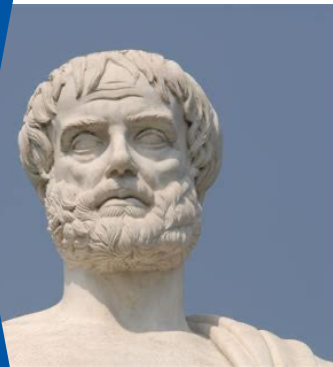


Visiting Speaker Series

THE NIKĀYAS AND ARISTOTLE ON MORAL PSYCHOLOGY: EMOTIONS AND MORAL RESPONSIBILITY

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This paper undertakes a comparison of the Nikāyas (early Buddhist Texts) and Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics* on the question of moral responsibility for emotions. Aristotle's definition of virtue as a mean between two extremes includes emotions (such as anger, hatred, or love). Aristotle attributes responsibility when there is a choice. On the one hand, emotions are subject to excess and deficiency through habituation. On the other hand, Aristotle claims that emotions are voluntary but not chosen. Yet, he expects us to feel the right emotion to enable virtue (one can be too angry or not angry enough). Buddhist philosophy includes a detailed analysis and taxonomy of emotions as moral motivation. The concept of choice is implied by the guidelines for effecting emotions. Applying Aristotle's conceptual framework to the analysis of emotions in the Nikāyas results in a clearer account of moral responsibility and a normative theory of emotions.



Friday, December 6, 2024

12-1:30 PM | CL 111

Zoom Link: <https://tinyurl.com/yc4xsmxw>

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