



Charlemont grant report

Recipient name:	Dr Giulio Di Basilio
Discipline and subject area:	Humanities and Social Science
Amount and year awarded:	€2,500 in 2022
Title of project:	Virtue and Practical Wisdom in Aristotle's Eudemean Ethics

Summary of findings:

The RIA Charlemont Grant I was awarded was devoted to an extended stay in Paris, 6 weeks from mid-June to early July 2022. The purpose of my stay was to work with Professor Pierre-Marie Morel at Université Paris I Panthéon Sorbonne. The key achievement of this project has been the preparation of an article on natural virtue in Aristotle's Eudemean Ethics. During the 6-week visit to Paris, I wrote up a first draft of the paper whilst meeting regularly with Professor Morel. I developed my own ideas on the theme in close collaboration with Morel. I presented a version of my paper to Professor Morel's research centre, GRAMATA, and received important feedback not only from him, but also from his other colleagues and collaborators: I wish to single out the contribution of Charlotte Murgier for her particularly helpful feedback. I have revised the paper on foot of our discussion, and have kept working on a final version to submit for publication, which I plan to submit to ancient philosophy journals before Christmas.

Collaboration with Professor Morel was particularly helpful. On the one hand, our ideas on natural virtue in Aristotle's Eudemean Ethics diverge: as he has argued in his recent 2021 book, the category of natural virtue is ultimately of secondary importance in Aristotle's ethics (Morel, 2021. P. 134). In my research, I take issue with this deflationary view. However, in his book, Morel devotes a significant amount of attention to the topic and has in my view felicitous insights into the matter. Specifically, I am in broad agreement with him that, for Aristotle, natural virtue is more the exception than the rule and that, as such, the people who possess it represent a sort of moral aristocracy (ibid., p. 143) I would therefore sum up our collaboration by saying that there was a fruitful and healthy disagreement, which led me to develop my own views in detail in order to withstand his criticism and come to flesh out an all-round position.

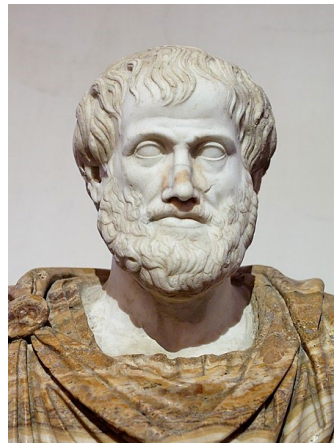
As for my own findings, here is a concise presentation of my argument in the paper (as of 20/11/2022): I attempt to suggest a different understanding of natural virtue in Aristotle's ethics, whereby through his use of this notion I take Aristotle to be exploring the role of natural endowments in ethical development. I propose a more robust picture of natural virtue and its role in the ethics as a whole by arguing that, suitably developed, it is a genuine way of possessing virtue, capable of issuing action out of decision as well as giving us correct belief about practical principles. However, I also stress its shortcomings in practice, which is the reason why it ultimately compares unfavourably with its counterpart, i.e., proper virtue (virtue-cum-practical wisdom). I aim at contributing to appreciating the role of natural virtue in Aristotle's ethics, while restating the paramount importance of practical wisdom over and above it.



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Plans for continuing collaboration:

I am continuing the collaboration with Professor Morel initiated during my stay in Paris on the Charlemont Grant, and precisely in two different directions: on the one hand, I intend to send back to Professor Morel a revised version of my paper in the next few weeks before submitting it for publication in specialist journals. I am seeking his endorsement in that if the paper passes his test, I will have a better chance of persuading reviewers of my own views on the matter. Second, collaboration with Professor Morel in June and July 2022 has enabled me to discuss with him important future plans, first and foremost the plan to apply for a Marie Curie Fellowship to be carried out between Trinity College in Ireland and Paris I Panthéon Sorbonne in France. This plan is to be implemented in the next years as in the meantime I have received two offers for other postdocs, in Austria and Germany respectively, and intend to take up either of them as the next step in my academic career. I do intend, however, to pursue the possibility of applying for a Marie Curie postdoc later in my academic career.



Published work and publication plans:

This project has been associated to a number of planned publications. First, with the above mentioned work in progress article titled 'Natural Virtue in Aristotle's Eudemian Ethics', which I plan to submit for publication before Christmas. At present, I intend to submit for publication before Christmas. At present, I intend to submit it to the prestigious journal *Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society*. Although the initial project aimed at specialist ancient philosophy journals, the paper has evolved in somewhat different directions and would now be palatable to contemporary philosophy audiences and of virtue ethicists in particular; hence, my intention to submit it to *Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society*. At the same time, while in Paris, I was able to work on two other related projects, namely two papers which are meant to be published in edited volumes. One of these is devoted to Aristotle's understanding of *aidôs* (roughly 'shame') in his Eudemian Ethics. This will be published by Brill in a volume on shame in antiquity, edited by Isabelle Koch and Anne Diane Balansard. The other paper is devoted to the question of method in Aristotle's Eudemian Ethics, and is to be published in a volume devoted to Aristotle's Dialectics and the Science, which will be edited by Luca Gili and William Wians for Brill.



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Dissemination and plans for future dissemination:

The dissemination of my research output has consisted in the main in a presentation given to Professor Morel's centre GRAMATA on 28/06/2022. In addition, I have been invited to participate in a workshop on Aristotle's Eudemian Ethics, organised by Professor Morel's doctoral students. The workshop was meant to take place in November 2022 but has unfortunately been postponed due to organisational issues.

Collaborations and planned collaborations:

As previously mentioned, part of the collaboration with Professor Morel consisted in planning an application for a Marie Curie Fellowship with Trinity College and Paris I Panthéon Sorbonne as joint host institutions. This will need to be developed in the future.