

Special seminar of

RESEARCH CENTRE FOR THEORY AND HISTORY OF SCIENCE

with

Apostolos Stavelas

The 15th century controversy
on the philosophy of Plato and Aristotle

27th April 2015

Sedláčkova 19, 306 14 Pilsen

room RJ-209

14:30 – 16:00

Výzkumné centrum pro teorii a dějiny vědy – CZ.1.07/2.3.00/20.0138



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EVROPSKÁ UNIE



MINISTERSTVO ŠKOLSTVÍ,
MLÁDEŽE A TĚLOVÝCHOVY



OP Vzdělávání
pro konkurenceschopnost

INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

The 15th century controversy on the philosophy of Plato and Aristotle

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For most of the Byzantine period Plato and Aristotle were equally respected and studied. But during the last years of the Byzantine Empire, the inequitable overemphasis in Aristotelian scholasticism triggered an anti-rationalistic movement, primarily introduced by Georgius Gemistus. After an appeal to him by Italian scholars, who required from him a supplementary exposition of the works of Plato, Gemistus designed an anti-Aristotelian thesis, entitled *On the differences of Aristotle to Plato*, in order to refute the monolithic and pedantic Aristotelianism of the late Byzantine years. The dispute on whether Plato's or Aristotle's philosophy should be thought as superior, became ever since a matter of controversy among the Greek scholars of the 15th century, both at Constantinople and in Italy, and Gemistus' text initiated an exchange of libelli between them. Plato's philosophy was admitted to be of a higher class in relation to Aristotle's by scholars as Georgius Gemistus, Cardinal Bessarion (1403-1472) and Michael Apostolius (1422-1480). The anti-Platonic and pro-Aristotle wing was comprised mainly by Georgius Scholarius (1405-1472), Georgius Trapezountius (1395-1472), Theodorus Gazis (1400-1475), Andronikus Kallistus (beg. 15th c.-1486) and Matthaëus Camariotis (beg. 15th c.-1490).