

**DEBORAH KAREN WARD MODRAK**

EDUCATIONAL HISTORY

University of Chicago	1971-74	Ph.D. (1974)
Doctoral dissertation: <i>Aristotelian Practical Syllogism</i>		
University of Chicago	1970-71	M.A. (1971)
George Washington University	1966-70	B.A. (1970)

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Professor, University of Rochester, 1995—  
Chair, Department of Philosophy, University of Rochester, 1997-2003; 2012-13  
Associate Professor, University of Rochester, 1985-1995  
Assistant Professor, University of Rochester, 1982-1985  
Visiting Assistant Professor, University of California, Riverside, 1980-81  
Assistant Professor, Rice University, Houston, Texas, 1975-1982  
Instructor, Rice University, Houston, Texas, 1974-75

AREA OF SPECIAL COMPETENCE: Ancient Greek Philosophy

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, 1993-94  
National Endowment for the Humanities Research Stipend, Summer 1991  
Mellon Faculty Fellow, University of Rochester, Spring, 1984  
Junior Fellow, Center for Hellenic Studies, 1981-82  
Fellowship, American Council of Learned Societies, 1981-82  
Ph.D. with Honors, University of Chicago, December 1974  
Rhodes Fellowship for Women, St. Anne's College, Oxford  
    University – Finalist, 1974  
Ford Fellowship, University of Chicago, 1973-74  
N. D. E. A. Fellowship, University of Chicago, 1970-73  
B.A. with Honors - Philosophy, June 1970

GRANTS

Co-Director, National Endowment for the Humanities Seminar for University and College Teachers, 2002-03

Co-Director, National Endowment for the Humanities Seminar for University and College Teachers, 2009-10

PUBLICATIONS

**Books**

*Aristotle: The Power of Perception.* University of Chicago Press, 1987.

*Aristotle's Theory of Language and Meaning.* Cambridge University Press, 2001.

**Articles**

- "Aisthesis in the Practical Syllogism," *Philosophical Studies* 30, 1976.
- "Philosophy and Women in Antiquity," *Rice University Studies* Winter, 1978.
- "Forms, Types and Tokens in Aristotle's *Metaphysics*," *Journal of the History of Philosophy* 17, October 1979.
- "Koine Aisthesis and the Discrimination of Sensible Differences in *De Anima* III, 2," *Canadian Journal of Philosophy* 11, 1981.
- "An Aristotelian Theory of Consciousness?" *Ancient Philosophy* 1, 1981.
- "Perception and Judgment in the *Theaetetus*," *Phronesis* 26, 1981.
- "Aristotle on Knowing First Principles," *Philosophical Inquiry International Quarterly* 3, 1981.
- "Forms and Compounds." *How Things Are, Proceedings of the Pitzer College Conference on Predication*, eds. J. Bogen and J.E. McGuire, 1985.
- "Phantasia Reconsidered," in *Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie* 68, 1986.
- "Aristotle on How We Think," *Proceedings on the Boston Area Colloquium in Ancient Philosophy*, 2, 1987.
- "Aristotle on the Difference between Mathematics and Physics and First Philosophy," in *Nature, Knowledge and Virtue: Essays in Memory of Joan Kung*, eds. R. Kraut and T. Penner, 1989.
- "Aristotle The First Cognitivist?" *Apeiron* 23, 1990.
- "The Nous-Body Problem in Aristotle," *Review of Metaphysics* 44, 1991.
- "Aristotle on Reason, Practical Reason, and Living Well," in *Essays in Ancient Greek Philosophy: Aristotle's Ethics and Politics*, eds. J. Anton and A. Preus, 1992.
- "Alexander on *Phantasia*: A Hopeless Muddle or a Better Account?" Spindel Conference 1992, *Ancient Minds*, ed. J. Ellis, *Southern Journal of Philosophy* 31, Supplement, 1993.
- "Aristotle: Women, Deliberation and Nature," in *Engendering Origins: Feminist Readings in Plato and Aristotle*, ed. A. Bar-on, 1994.
- "Theories of Meaning and Ontology in Aristotle's *Metaphysics*" in *The Crossroads of Norm and Nature: Essays on Aristotle's Ethics and Metaphysics*, ed. M. Sim, 1995.
- "Familial and political hierarchies in Aristotle's *Politics*," *Aristotelian Political Philosophy, Proceedings of the Sixth International Conference on Greek Philosophy*, 1995.
- "Aristotle's Epistemology: One or Many Theories?" in *Aristotle's Philosophical Development. Problems and Prospects*, ed. W. Wians, 1996.
- "Classical Theories of the Mind", in the *Encyclopedia of Classical Philosophy*, ed. D. Zeyl, 1997.
- "Aristotle's Theory of Knowledge and Feminist Epistemology," in *Feminist Interpretations of Aristotle*, ed. C. Freeland, 1998.

"Phantasia, thought and science in Eudemus," in *Eudemus of Rhodes*, ed. W. Fortenbaugh and I. Bodnar, 2002.

"Sensing, Experiencing and Knowing in Aristotle," *Skepsis*, 13-14, 2002-03.

"Aristotle on Gender, Class and Political Hierarchies" in *Law and Rights in the Ancient Greek Tradition*, ed. G. Anagnostopoulos, *Philosophical Inquiry* 27, 2006.

"Ancient Philosophy of Language," in *A Companion to Ancient Philosophy*, ed. M. Gill and P. Pellegrin, 2006.

"Plato: A Theory of Perception or a Nod to Sensation?" in *A Companion to Plato*, ed. H. Benson, 2006.

"Form and Function" in *Proceedings of the Boston Area Colloquium in Ancient Philosophy*, 22, 2006, ed. J. Cleary and G. Gurtler, S.J. 2007.

"Sensation and Desire," *A Companion to Aristotle*, ed. G. Anagnostopoulos, 2009.

"Dreams and Method in Aristotle" *Essays in Honor of G. Anagnostopoulos, Skepsis: A Journal for Philosophy and Interdisciplinary Research* 20, 2009.

"Nominal Definition in Aristotle" *Definition in Greek Philosophy*, ed. D. Charles, Oxford University Press, 2010.

"Desires and Faculties in Plato and Aristotle," *Socratic, Platonic and Aristotelian Studies. Essays in Honor of G. Santas, Philosophical Studies Series 117*, ed. G. Anagnostopoulos, (talk originally published as part of conference proceedings, *Philosophical Inquiry: International Quarterly* 30, 2008) 2011.

"Physicalism in Strato's Psychology," in *Strato of Lampsacus, Text, Translation and Discussion, Rutgers University Studies in Classical Humanities*, vol. 16, ed. M. Desclos and W. Fortenbaugh, 2011.

"Plato on Meaning and Cognition in Plato's *Cratylus* and *Theaetetus*," *The Powers of Mind: Contemporary Problems – Ancient Solutions*, ed. A. Marmodoro, *Topoi* 31, 2012.

"Plato on Words, Parts of Words and Meaning" in *Philosophical Inquiry: International Quarterly*, Special Issue in Honor of Theodore Scaltsas, 36, 2013.

"Method, Meaning, and Ontology in Plato's Philosophy of Language" in *Linguistic Content: New Essays in the History of the Philosophy of Language*, ed. M. Cameron, Oxford University Press, chap. 1, 2015.

"Aristotle on *Phantasia* in *The Routledge Handbook of Philosophy of Imagination*, ed. Amy Kind, 2016.

"Virtue, Equality and Inequality in Aristotle's Politics" in *Greek Democracy and Equalities/Inequalities*, ed. G. Anagnostopoulos and G. Santas, forthcoming.

### **Review Articles**

"Realism in Rough Water," *Phronesis* 34, 1989.

"Stoics, Epicureans and Mental Content," *Apeiron*, 1993.

"Theophrastus and Recent Scholarship," *Journal of the History of Ideas* 55, 1994.

“Sense Organs: Matter and Form,” *Apeiron* 31, 1998.

### **Book Reviews and Critical Notices**

Review of A. C Lloyd, *Form and Universal in Aristotle*, *Journal of the History of Philosophy* 21, 1983.

Review of T. Irwin, Trans., *Aristotle Nicomachean Ethics*, *Canadian Philosophical Reviews-Revue Canadienne de Comptes rendus en Philosophie* 6, 1986.

Review of M. Schofield, *An Essay on Anaxagoras*, *Ancient Philosophy* 5, 1986.

Review of D. Charles, *Aristotle's Philosophy of Action*, *Journal of the History of Philosophy* 25, 1987.

Review of D. Hutchinson, *The Virtues of Aristotle*, *Canadian Philosophical Reviews--Revue Canadienne de Comptes rendus en Philosophie* 8, 1988.

Review of J. Lear, *Aristotle: The Desire to Understand*, *Review of Metaphysics* 42, 1988.

Review of T. Irwin, *A History of Western Philosophy: 1. Classical Thought*, *Review of Metaphysics* 43, 1989.

Review of K. Konstan, *Simplicius on Aristotle's Physics 6*, *Review of Metaphysics* 44, 1991.

Review of D. Robinson, *Aristotle's Psychology*, *International Studies in Philosophy* 23, 1991.

Review of D. Bostock, *Plato's Theaetetus*, *Ancient Philosophy* 11, 1991.

Review of Gerard Watson, *Phantasia in Classical Thought*, *Gnomon*, 1992.

Review of D. Gallop, *Aristotle on Sleep and Dreams*, *Phoenix*, 47, 1993.

Review of N. Nussbaum and A. Rorty, eds, *Essays on Aristotle's De Anima*, *Ethics* 105, 1995.

Review of R. Sorabji, *Animal Minds and Human Morals*, *Isis*, 1995.

Review of H. Granger, *Aristotle's Idea of the Soul*, *Ancient Philosophy*, 2000.

Review of David Key trans. and comm., *Aristotle. Politics Books V and VI*, *American Journal of Philology*, 122, 2001.

Review of J. Lennox, *Aristotle's Philosophy of Biology*, *Philosophy in Review* 22, 2002.

Review of M. Burnyeat, *A Map of Metaphysics Zeta* in *Journal of the History of Philosophy*, XLI, 2003.

Review of S. Everson, *Aristotle on Perception*, *International Studies in Philosophy*, 35, 2003.

Review of C. Shields, *Classical Philosophy: A Contemporary Introduction* in *Philosophical Books* 46, 2005.

Review of L. Gerson, *Aristotle and Other Platonists* in *Journal of the History of Philosophy* XLIV, 2006.

Review of P. Gregoric, *Aristotle on the Common Sense* in *Byrn Mawr Classical Review* 2.20, 2008.

Review of J. Ward, *Aristotle on Homonymy: Dialectic and Science* in *Polis* 25, 2008.

Review of R. Polansky, *Aristotle's De Anima. A Critical Commentary* in *Ancient Philosophy*. 2010.

Review of K. Vogt, *Belief and Truth A Skeptic Reading of Plato* in *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* 2013.

Review of J. Moss, *Aristotle on the Apparent Good Perception, Phantasia, Thought and Desire* in *Ancient Philosophy*, 2014.

### **Work in Progress**

*Plato on Basic Objects, Knowledge, and Language.*

*Intellect, Emotion and Imagination in Hellenistic Philosophy.*

Analysis of arguments of Aristotle's *De Sensu*, *De Memoria*, *De Somno* and *De Insomniis* (under contract for Project Archelogos).

"Truth and Meaning in Aristotle"

"Aristotle on Sensible Substance in *Metaphysics Z – H*"

"Internal Senses and Aristotle's Cognitive Theory"

### PRESENTATIONS

#### **Refereed Papers**

"*Aisthesis* in the Practical Syllogism," American Philosophical Association Meetings, Washington, D.C., December 1974.

"Right Reason and Right Desire in Book Six," American Philosophical Association Meetings, Berkeley, California, March 1976.

"The Central Sense and the Unity of Consciousness in the *Parva Naturalia*," American Philosophical Association Meetings, San Francisco, California, March 1978.

"Forms, Types and Tokens in Aristotle's *Metaphysics*," American Philosophical Association Meetings, San Diego, California, March 1979.

"Perception and Judgment in the *Theaetetus*," American Philosophical Association Meetings, Detroit, Michigan, April 1980.

"Imagination and First Principles," American Philosophical Association Meetings, Columbus, Ohio, April 1982.

"Aristotle and the Psychophysical Identity Theory," American Philosophical Association, Western Division Meetings, St. Louis, Missouri, April 1985.

"Aristotle: Women, Deliberation and Nature," American Philosophical Association Meetings, Pacific Division Meetings, Los Angeles, California, March 1990.

"Can the dualist answer Sextus?," American Philosophical Association, Western Division Meetings, San Francisco, California, March 1991.

"The Stoics on Intentionality," International Conference on Ancient and Medieval Philosophy, New York, NY, October 2004.

### **Invited Papers**

"Substance and Forms in Aristotle's *Metaphysics*," University of Chicago, November 1977.

"Forms, Types and Tokens in Aristotle's *Metaphysics*," Texas Workshop in Greek Philosophy, University of Texas at Austin, February 1978.

"Forms, Types and Tokens in Aristotle's *Metaphysics*," Brandeis University, February 1978.

"Aristotle on Imagining, Thinking and Knowing," Pennsylvania State University, November 1979.

"Perception and Judgment in the *Theaetetus*," Southwestern Conference in Ancient Greek Philosophy, University of Texas at Austin, February 1980.

"Further Thoughts on Impropriety," Conference on Predication, Pitzer College, April 1981.

"*Phantasia* Reconsidered," Philosophy Department, University of California, San Diego, May 1981.

"Aristotle's Basic Theory of Perception," Boston University Colloquium in Ancient Philosophy, January 1982.

"Aristotle's Basic Theory of Perception," Georgetown University, March 1982.

"First Principles and *Nous*," University of Pittsburgh, March 1982.

"Methodology in Aristotle's Theory of Perception," Conference on Aristotle's *De Anima*, University of Pittsburgh, March 1984.

"Aristotle's Theory of Cognition," Erindale Campus, University of Toronto, March 1985.

"Aristotle's Theory of Cognition," Aristotle's Philosophy of Mind and Modern Theories of Cognition Conference, University of Rochester, April 1985.

"Aristotle on How We Think," Boston Area Colloquium on Ancient Philosophy, March 1986.

"Moral Weakness and Practical Wisdom in the *Nicomachean Ethics*," Philosophy Department, Columbia University, November 1986.

"Aristotle on Reason, Practical Reason, and Living Well," *Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy*, December 1986.

Lecture on *Gorgias* 466A-468E. University of Texas Workshop on Ancient Greek Philosophy, April 1987.

"Aristotle, Charles and Dahl on Practical Reasoning," Symposium on Weakness of

Will, American Philosophical Association, Central Division Meetings, May 1987.

"A Second Look at Aristotle's Epistemology," Philosophy Department, Princeton University, February 1988.

"Aristotle and Lear's Aristotle on *Katharsis*," Symposium, American Philosophical Association, Central Division Meetings, May 1988.

"Aristotle's *De Anima*," "The Adequacy of Aristotle's Philosophy of Mind," and "Human and Divine *Nous*," National Endowment for Humanities Institute, St. John's University, July 1988.

"*Nous*, the soul and the good," Symposium, American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division Meetings, March 1989.

"Aristotle, Images and Language of Thought," Graduate Center, City University of New York, October 1990.

"Alexander on *Phantasia*: A Hopeless Muddle or a Better Account?" Spindel Conference, Memphis State University, October 1992.

"Theories of Meaning and Ontology in Aristotle's *Metaphysics*," Society Ancient Greek Philosophy meeting, Columbia University, October 1992.

"Meaning and Ontology in Aristotle's *Metaphysics*," University of Glasgow, November 1993.

"Meaning and Ontology in Aristotle's *Metaphysics*," University of Edinburgh, November 1993.

"Meaning and Ontology in Aristotle's *Metaphysics*," University of Paris, December 1993.

"Theories of Meaning and Ontology in Aristotle's *Metaphysics*," Brandeis University, April 1994.

"Familial and political hierarchies in Aristotle's *Politics*," Sixth International Conference on Greek Philosophy, Aristotelian Political Philosophy, Ierissos, Greece, August 1994.

"Definition, Strictly Speaking in Aristotle's *Metaphysics*," Chapel Hill Colloquium, University of North Carolina, October 1994.

"Ancient Theories of Cognition: The Dominance of Empiricism," American Philosophical Association, Central Division meeting, Chicago, April 1996.

"*Phantasia*, thought and science in Eudemus," Eudemus of Rhodes, Project Theophrastus, University of Budapest, Budapest, Hungary, June 1997.

"Aristotelian Dreams," Rutgers University, October 1997.

"Phantasia and Meaning in Aristotle," Nazareth College, Rochester, New York, January 1998.

"Word, Image and Reference in Aristotle," American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division meeting, Berkeley, April 1999.

"Aristotle on Meanings, Internal States and External Objects," University at Buffalo, SUNY, April 1999.

“Aristotle on Gender, Class and Political Hierarchies” and “Word, Image and Reference in Aristotle,” University Special Lecturer, Auburn University, February 2000.

"*Mimesis* and Naming in Plato's *Cratylus* and Aristotle's Response," SUNY, Binghamton, May 2000.

Invited discussant XI International Symposium of Philosophy: Political philosophy of Plato and Aristotle, Pyrgos, Greece, August 2000.

"Aristotle on Internal States, External Realities and Knowledge," 3<sup>rd</sup> Athens-Pittsburgh Symposium in the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology, University of Crete, Rethymnon, October 2000.

"Sensing, Experiencing and Knowing in Aristotle," XII International Symposium of the Olympic Center for Philosophy and Culture, Greece, August 2001.

“Aristotelian Minds, Meanings and Things,” Werkmeister Conference, Florida State University, March 2003.

“Aristotle on Representation and Meaning” and “The Stoics on Intentionality,” Oxford University, May 2004.

“Aristotelian Substance, Functional Unity and Embedded Matter,” Seminaire de Philosophie Ancienne, Aristote. Matiere et generation, University of Paris I, January 2005.

“The Role of Physical Theory in Strato’s Psychology,” Straton de Lamsaque conference, Grenoble, France, April 2005.

“Goatstags, goats and definition in Aristotle, Keynote address, International Conference on Ancient and Medieval Philosophy, New York, October 2005.

Comments on David Charles, *Aristotle on Meaning and Essence*, American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division, March 2005.

“Aristotelian Form Function and Definition,” Boston Area Colloquium in Ancient Philosophy, Boston University, February 2006.

“Essence and Definition in Aristotle,” School of Philosophy, Catholic University, March 2006.

“Knowing and Being according to Aristotle,” Keynote address, Philosophy Undergraduate innovation and Research Conference of Bowling Green State University and Ohio Northern University, March 2006.

“Form and Function in Aristotle’s *Metaphysics*,” McGill University, Montreal, Canada, March 2006.

Author’s response to critics, *Aristotle’s Theory of Language and Meaning*, Author Meets Critics session, American Philosophical Association, Central Division, April 2006.

“Desires and Faculties in Plato and Aristotle,” Conference in celebration of the life and work of G. Santas, Pyrgos, Greece, July 2006.

“Techne as Paradigm,” Plenary session, International Conference on Ancient and Medieval Philosophy, New York, October 2006.

“Transmigration in Empedocles and Plato,” Hobart and William Smith College, October 2006.



“Meaning and Simple Objects in the *Cratylus* and *Theaetetus*,” Distinguished Speakers Series, Haverford College, April 2009.

Comments on N. Birondo, “Exercising our Senses in Aristotle,” American Philosophical Association, Central Division, February 2010.

“Plato on Words, Parts of Words and Meaning,” Invited Symposium, American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division, April 2010.

“Why True? Thoughts and Objects in Aristotelian Semantics,” Harvard University, April 2011.

“Aristotle on Definition and Meaning,” Rutgers University, May 2011.

“Why True? Thoughts and Objects in Aristotelian Semantics.” Keynote address at Ancient Philosophy Workshop #35, University of Texas, Austin, March 2012.

“Aristotle on Truth and Meaning,” Philosophy, Universidade de Sao Paolo, September 2012.

“Thoughts and Objects in Aristotle’s Semantics,” Syracuse University, Central New York Humanities Corridor Working Group in Ancient Philosophy, October 2013.

“Plato and Aristotle on Meaning and Truth,” prepared for Invited Symposium, American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division, 2013 postponed.

“Xenophon and Plato on Definition,” Conference on Xenophon and Plato, Israel, June 2014.

“Inequalities in Aristotle’s *Politics*,” Workshop on Ancient Greek Democracy, University of California, San Diego, 2015.

“Internal Sense and Aristotle’s Cognitive Theory,” Conference on The Internal Senses in the Aristotelian Tradition, Representation and Reality Research Program, University of Gothenburg, Sweden, 2016

#### PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy (President 2005 – 2012)

American Philosophical Association

New York Colloquium in Ancient Philosophy

Society for Women in Philosophy

Central New York Humanities Working Group in Ancient Philosophy (co-organizer)