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Refund requests should be made, in writing, to the Manager of Public Programmes, OUDCE, 1 Wellington Square, Oxford, OX1 2JA, or by emailing ppdayweek@conted.ox.ac.uk. Please indicate in your application whether, if successful, you would prefer a refund, transfer or credit note.

Contributors

PROFESSOR CATHERINE OSBORNE

is Professor of Philosophy at the University of East Anglia (Norwich). She did her doctorate in Cambridge on Presocratic Philosophy (studying the reception of early Greek thinkers in certain Christian texts whose attention to those thinkers is crucial to our own knowledge of the period). Her main publications in this field are *Rethinking Early Greek Philosophy* (1987) and *Presocratic Philosophy: a very short introduction* (2004). She has also published on many other aspects of ancient philosophy, including *love* (*Eros Unveiled* 1994) and the distinction between humans and animals (*Dumb Beasts and Dead Philosophers* 2007).

PROFESSOR MALCOLM SCHOFIELD

is Emeritus Professor of Ancient Philosophy in the University of Cambridge and a Fellow of St John's College. Recent major publications have included: *Plato: Political philosophy* (Oxford 2006) and *The Cambridge History of Greek and Roman Political Thought*, ed. with Christopher Rowe (Cambridge 2000). His current research interests include: ancient political thought and the philosophy of Cicero.

Director of Studies

MARIANNE TALBOT BA BPhil

Director of Studies in Philosophy at OUDCE

ACCOMMODATION

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The Origins of Metaphysics in Presocratic Philosophy



SATURDAY 19 – SUNDAY 20
MAY 2012



DEPARTMENT FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION

The Origins of Metaphysics in Presocratic Philosophy

A weekend to be held at Rewley House, 1 Wellington Square, Oxford

You might think that the very earliest bits of Western Philosophy would be either primitive or naïve, not yet broaching the big questions of metaphysics, epistemology and causation. And indeed that's how it can first appear when you find Thales suggesting that surely the earth floats on water. But those first impressions will be quickly dispelled as we investigate the deep issues that are already emerging in the sixth century BC as thinkers begin to consider what there is, why it is as it is, and how we know that we have understood it aright. Did Parmenides cause a major crisis when he proposed that actually nothing changes and there is only one thing, reality? What did Heraclitus mean by saying that everything flows (was that what provoked Parmenides?). Can we solve the problem, as the atomists did, by imagining that reality is composed of particles that move in space? These and other pioneering thoughts will feature in a lively exploration of the beginnings of philosophy, with plenty of time for asking questions.

SUGGESTED READING

Waterfield, R. (ed.): *The First Philosophers Oxford World's Classics* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000).

Kirk, G. S., Raven, J. E., & Schofield, M., *The Presocratic Philosophers* (2nd edn.; Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1983).

Osborne, C., *Presocratic Philosophy: a very short introduction* (Very Short Introductions; Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004).

PROGRAMME

SATURDAY 19 MAY 2012

- 2.45pm Registration
3.00pm **The beginnings:
Thales to Xenophanes**
MALCOLM SCHOFIELD
4.30pm Tea / coffee
5.00pm **Language and reality:
Heraclitus the Obscure**
CATHERINE OSBORNE
6.30pm Bar open
7.00pm Dinner
8.15pm – 9.30pm **Monism and pluralism:
Parmenides and his heirs
(Zeno, Anaxagoras, atomism)**
MALCOLM SCHOFIELD

SUNDAY 20 MAY 2012

- 8.15am Breakfast (residents only)
9.30am **Cyclical worlds and cyclical
lives: Pythagoreans and
Empedocles**
CATHERINE OSBORNE
10.45am Coffee / tea
11.15am **Discussion**
12.30pm Lunch
2.00pm Course disperses

USEFUL WEBSITES

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy:
<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/presocratics/>
<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/heraclitus/>
<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/parmenides/>
<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/xenophanes/>
<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/anaxagoras/>

Empedocles:
<http://www.classicpersuasion.org/pw/empedocles/empunib.htm>

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FEE OPTIONS (Philosophy Society Members £5.00 discount on tuition only)		
Residential Single	£156.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
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