Happiness and Time in Ancient Philosophy

It is often claimed that according to the ancient Greek conception happiness (eudaimonia) is essentially a feature of life as a whole and can only be determinately discerned at the end of life. It turns out, however, that this conception is primarily based on Aristotle. Moreover, it will be argued, that aspects of Aristotle’s own thought about such matter go against such a view. Furthermore, just about every major school of ancient philosophy after Aristotle maintains a very different view: Epicureans, Stoics and Plotinus all hold that happiness is in the moment. In this paper I present and discuss the views of Aristotle and the later thinkers. Unfortunately there is no clear conclusion about who is most right.

Alle Interessenten, insbesondere auch Studierende, sind herzlich eingeladen.

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