Grant Stuart

Heidegger's performative reading of Aristotlelian Phronēsis

standard lecture

In a series of early lectures (1925-26) on Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics* and Plato's *Sophist* , Heidegger characterises ethical conduct not as adherence to a set of learnt fixed principles or *archai*, but as a matter of skilled *praxis,* action, in the attainment of practical wisdom—*phronēsis*. He analyses a series of key Aristotelian terms and functions for their role in this achievement through practice, ultimately describing a structure of an ethics which can be understood as improvisation in the moment, *kairos*. In this paper, I sketch an outline of this improvisational model of practical ethical conduct through an examination of the Aristotelian terms, *sophia, archē, epistēmē, technē, nous, boulēsis, prohairesis, kairos, hexis.* I further suggest that the model foreshadows the origin of the performative in Heidegger's thinking and offers a way towards an understanding of the type of knowledge produced by practice research, as phronetic.

Bio:
Stuart Grant is Senior Lecturer in Performance Studies at Monash University. He has published extensively on performance phenomenology, Heidegger and performance, site-specific performance, comedy, and other philosophical issues in performance. He is director of the performance group, the Environmental Performance Authority, <http://www.epaperformance.org>, and leader of the punk band, Primitive Calculators, <https://www.facebook.com/primitivecalculators>. He is convenor of the phenomenology group in the Performance Philosophy organisation.