



Plato in the place of Aristotle: Platonic lectures and commentaries in Renaissance universities

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The paper examines hitherto unstudied Renaissance Latin texts (in manuscripts and in print) showing that 16th-century university and school professors lectured on Plato even when they were appointed to teach exclusively on Aristotle. It provides a close analysis of several university lectures on Plato's dialogues, which were held in courses of natural and moral philosophy at Italian universities, followed by an overview of various Platonic commentaries written by professors of Aristotelian philosophy. It argues that professors had more freedom to teach non-Aristotelian authors than has been previously acknowledged; that their interest in Platonism was the result of a direct engagement with Platonic texts rather than a form of eclectic Aristotelianism; and that the incursion of Plato within the university context was more widespread than has been assumed by modern scholarship.

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Ort: Zentrum für Alte Kulturen, Langer Weg 11, SR 5