

PHILOSOPHY



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

# ARISTOTLE'S METAPHYSICS AS A RULING SCIENCE

The Rosamond Kent Sprague Lecture in Ancient Philosophy

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Wednesday, May 1st, 2019 • 3:30pm • Carolina Room, Inn at USC

Aristotle says that metaphysics rules the subordinate theoretical sciences, that is, physics and mathematics, because it orders (or commands) them and because it knows their good or end. Just what could it mean for metaphysics to order the other theoretical sciences? There is no literature on this question, but it cuts to the very heart of the *Metaphysics*. The idea that metaphysics somehow grounds the other sciences is widely held among contemporary and classical philosophers, but not generally ascribed to Aristotle despite his calling metaphysics the ruling science. In this lecture, Professor Halper looks at a rarely discussed section of the *Metaphysics*, on the principles and elements of sensible substances, to propose an Aristotelian account of metaphysics as a ruling science.