Aldo L'Erario Rethinking Aristotelian Intuition after the Downfall of the Intuitionist Reading

Fakultät für Philosophie, Wissenschaftstheorie und Religionswissenschaft Ludwig Maximilians Universität München Deutschland

e-mail: aldo.lerario@gmail.com

In the last half century, our understanding of the role of intuition in Aristotle's Posterior Analytics has undergone a major shift. The traditional view that Aristotelian epistemology was founded on the intuition of the first principles of science has been dismantled and replaced with a range of alternative readings which go from interpreting Aristotle as a hardline empiricist to invoking the presence of coherentist undertones in his model of science. However, I argue that none of the modern solutions is entirely sufficient to ground the Aristotelian grasp of the essence. My conclusion is that it is possible to make sense of Aristotle's theses by admitting again a role for intuition, though in the practice of definition and explanation rather than in the grasp of the first starting points of demonstration, which are rather acquired inductively.