

Talk at T.C. Karşıyaka Belediyesi, Izmir 10 April: Geoffrey Bove on Aegean Philosophy

Date: 10 April 2020

Time: 13.00

Place: Karşıyaka Belediyesi, Izmir

AEGEAN PHILOSOPHY AND INTELLECTUAL CULTURAL HERITAGE

Doç. Dr. Geoff Bove
Istanbul Technical University

Abstract

As is well known, many ancient cities in the Turkish Aegean are of importance to global intellectual history. We can identify several important “birthplaces” in the Aegean: Miletus – philosophy and city planning, Assos – Biology, Bergama - Pharmacology, Bodrum – history. Didyma, I shall argue, once challenged Delphi as the seat of Apollo’s wisdom in the ancient world. As evidence of this I look at some ancient texts that narrate different versions of the legends of the Seven Sages, and show how the role of the Oracle of Apollo at Didyma in the Sage stories informs Plato’s literary depictions of Socrates’ trial. I also examine how Plato sees Socratic humanist philosophy as emerging over and against the philosophical approach of another important Aegean philosopher, Anaxagoras, who was born in Clazomanae (Urla) and died in Lampascaus (Lapseki). Anaxagoras’ persona looms large in Plato’s Apology, Phaedo and Republic. In addition, I examine how two ancient morality stories of Aegean provenance play central roles in the ethical positions of Plato and Aristotle.