

Sebastian Odzuck (Göttingen): What do we learn from Aristotle's Comparison between
Change in Quantity and Locomotion?

Abstract

In various places in his works Aristotle characterizes the growth or diminution of a body, i.e. its change in quantity, as a change of the body with respect to its place. Focusing mostly on passages from the *Physics* and the *De generatione et corruptione*, I will ask what Aristotle means to say by making the highly problematic claim that any change in quantity is a change in place and why he makes it. Does he mean that a body x by growing moves through space just like a ball I have thrown, that is, is the change in place that x undergoes by growing a change in place in the full sense? I will argue that the quantitative change that x undergoes must not be understood as a change in place in the full sense, i.e. locomotion, but only as a change in place with respect to x 's growing parts. This, however, gives rise to a serious problem for Aristotle's account of change in place. Presenting a new reading of *De generatione* I 5, I claim that Aristotle meets this challenge here by developing a crucial criterion that any instance of locomotion, i.e. a body's change in place in the full sense, must fulfill: if x changes from one place to another in the full sense, the inner-spatial relation between every single part of x , its bodily integrity, must remain completely untouched by this change, although all of x 's parts change their place at the same time.