

Les projectiles et les fluctuations de l'antipéristase dans les commentaires latins de la *Physique* : d'Averroès à Paul de Venise

Nicolas Weill-Parot
EPHE, PSL, Paris

Abstract: As known, Aristotle accounts for the motion of the projectiles by the action of the medium (air or water) and he puts forward two explanations : the antiperistasis (which finally he seems to reject) and the transmission of the capacity of moving from one portion of the medium to another. Historians of medieval science have focused on the doctrine of *impetus* (which from the fourteenth century onwards moves away from Aristotle's explanation), but they have not pay sufficient attention to the various interpretations of antiperistasis given by the different commentators of *Physics*. This paper recalls the different Latin translations of Aristotle and the interpretations given by Averroes. It analyzes three different types of interpretations by the commentators of the thirteenth century (*repercussio aeris*, *reinclinatio*, *horror vacui*). It then shows how in Giles of Rome, antiperistasis is subtly integrated into what he presents as the Aristotelian position. Finally, the interpretation by Paul of Venice, in his commentary on *Physics*, is addressed : he builds up an explanation in which antiperistasis is understood in such a way to be part of what he sees as Aristotle's explanation and – as this paper tries to argue – in order to rebuke an argument raised by the supporters of the impetus theory – a theory he rejects.