

# Reconfiguring Aristotelian Substance

## Suárez on *Res*, Subsistence and Inherence

Nicola Milanese

Università degli Studi di Salerno

**Abstract:** Francisco Suárez is widely regarded as one of the most influential figures in the development of early modern metaphysics in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. In this essay, I argue that Suárez's account of substance can be fully understood only through the notions of *res* and *modus*, which are transcategorical concepts to which all substances and accidents can be reduced. The "reification" and "modalization" of the ten categories bring about a substantive reconfiguration of the Aristotelian conception of substance. To prove this, I examine Suárez's notions of subsistence and inherence. Subsistence is the mode that, by attaching itself to a nature, makes it exist independently and renders it incommunicable to any other nature, whereas inherence is the mode that connects the class of accidents Suárez calls real or absolute to the substance. Finally, although Suárez maintains that the division of being into substance and accidents is complete and sufficient, I show that, by his own definitions, *res* and mode fall outside this division.

**Keywords:** Francisco Suárez, *Res*, Mode, Subsistence, Inherence.