

Emotions: from Aristotle to Heidegger and Beyond
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Aristotle is widely seen as the first European thinker who took emotions seriously. Referring to his analysis of a list of *pathe* in *Rhetoric* II, 1-11, many philosophers today claim him as a forerunner of cognitive ('judgmentalist') theories of emotion in western psychology.

In this paper I argue that Aristotle's explorations of the passions are more interesting than that; any attempt to squeeze him into the mold of scientific cognitivism misrepresents his intentions. In his work, he examines the passions within the context of larger issues, involving the relationship between logos and pathos, action and passion, subject and world – his vocabulary does not directly fit our current scientific ontologies. A reconstruction of his scattered views on the *pathe* throughout his writings results in a philosophical framework that covers a wide variety of 'emotional' phenomena, and has interesting similarities with the comprehensive approach of affectivity in 20th century existential phenomenology.