

**Bradford Jean-Hyuk Kim: Official Prospectus for Oxford Lecture Series,
“Aristotle’s *Nicomachean Ethics* on Friendship”**

Aristotle’s *Nicomachean Ethics* on Friendship

Mr Bradford Kim – F. 11 – 12.30 (weeks 1 to 4), Radcliffe Humanities (Lecture Room)

This lecture series explores key issues in Aristotle’s theory of friendship, as recorded in the *Nicomachean Ethics*. In particular, we will explore how the relatively ignored topic of friendship illuminates the popular question of whether Aristotle’s ethics is altruist or egoist.

Week 1: Introduction. This lecture will provide a broad introduction to Aristotle’s ethics and his theory of friendship. Key issues will be discussed; for example, the place of altruism and egoism in ancient ethics, translations of Greek words for love and friendship, etc.

Week 2: Loving Because of the Lovable. Aristotle says that friends love because of the lovable (*to philēton*) and posits three kinds of lovable things: the good, the pleasant, and the useful. This lecture will assess various interpretations of two issues. The first is whether we are to understand the lovable in terms of one’s own well-being. The second is whether we are to understand loving because of the lovable as involving the lovable as the final cause of love (what love is for the sake of) or the efficient cause of love (what sets love in motion). Key Texts: *Nicomachean Ethics* 8.2 and 9.3.

Week 3: Other Selves and Oneself. This lecture begins a two-part examination of Aristotle’s notion of another self (*heteros/allos autos*), a notion that is the linchpin of several arguments about friendship. The first two instances in 8.12 and 9.4 are related, and various interpretations are assessed regarding the central feature of other selfhood, that is, what makes a person another self of oneself. Key Texts: *Nicomachean Ethics* 8.12, 9.4, and 9.7.

Week 4: Why Need Friends? This lecture assesses the final two instances of another self in the *Nicomachean Ethics*. These occur in 9.9, where Aristotle argues that the happy person needs friends. Various interpretations are assessed as to how Aristotle uses the notion of another self for this argument. Key Texts: *Nicomachean Ethics* 9.9 and 9.12.