

# The Aretaic Turn

The influence of Aristotle's ethics in contemporary psychology & jurisprudence

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"[T]he pursuit of a theory of justice has something to do with the kind of creatures that human beings are ... "  
Amartya Sen, *The Idea of Justice* (Harvard, Belknap Press, 2009)

Since the true student of politics wishes to make fellow citizens happy, and since happiness is an activity of the soul,  
then the student of politics must know something about the soul  
Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Book I, Chapter 13.



## "Contemporary Virtue Jurisprudence and Aristotle's Ethics"

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Lawrence Solum is the John E. Cribbet Professor of Law and Philosophy and co-director of the University of Illinois's Institute for Law and Philosophy. Professor Solum is an internationally recognized expert on legal theory, who works on the philosophy of law, civil procedure, constitutional Theory, Internet governance, and a variety of other topics. He is the author of *Legal Theory Blog* – widely recognized as one of the most influential sources of commentary about the world of legal ideas. Solum's current research focuses on three areas: (1) procedural fairness, (2) the relationship between the philosophy of language and constitutional theory, and (3) the intersection between virtue ethics and the philosophy of law. Professor Solum's forthcoming work includes a book on Civil Procedure in the Oxford University Press series on American law, *Originalism: For and Against*, from Cornell University Press. He recently edited the first anthology on the relationship between virtue theory and the law, *Virtue Jurisprudence*, with Dr. Colin Farrelly.

## "An Aristotelian Approach to International Criminal Law"

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Hope May is the author of several books and articles including *On Socrates* (Wadsworth, 2000). Her most recent book is *Aristotle's Ethics: Moral Development and Human Nature* (Continuum, 2010), which demonstrates the deep affinities between Aristotle's ethics and a theory of motivation known as *Self-Determination Theory*. She is currently working on a book project that connects the ethical theory of Aristotle to International Criminal Law, and specifically to the work of the International Criminal Court. She earned her J.D. degree in 2008 and her Ph.D. in 2001.



## "Well-being, Autonomy & Eudaimonic Perspectives in Psychology: The View from Self Determination Theory"

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Richard Ryan is Professor of Psychology, Psychiatry, & Education at University of Rochester. His research focuses on the effects of social contexts on human motivation, personality development, and well-being. His current research interests include: the acquisition and impact of materialism and other extrinsic goals in human development and culture; facilitation versus undermining of intrinsic motivation and self-determination; the determinants of subjective vitality and "energy"; and the sources of within-person variability in attachment, well-being, and life satisfaction. He is also involved in applied motivational research in the domains of health care, education, sport, religion, work, psychotherapy and virtual environments. With Edward Deci, Professor Ryan co-founded Self-Determination Theory, an influential contemporary motivational theory.

