

PHILOSOPHY SPEAKER SERIES

February 21, 2025
4:00-5:30 PM
COB 276



A RECONSTRUCTION OF ARISTOTLE'S LOST WORK THE PROTREPTICUS (EXHORTATION TO PHILOSOPHY) AS A DIALOGUE

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Like his teacher Plato, Aristotle (384-322 B.C.) wrote several dialogues, but all of them have been lost. It is possible, however, to reconstruct at least one of them out of quotations of the work in later Greek authors: the *Protrepticus* (Exhortation to Philosophy). Aristotle wrote the *Protrepticus* as a defense of Academic Philosophy against its detractors. In this talk, I will provide you with an English translation of our reconstruction, explain our theory of its structure and the characters in the dialogue, and discuss some of the arguments, including why some ancient Greeks criticized philosophy, and how philosophy can be defended as not only practically useful, but also intrinsically valuable and in fact transformative.