



# **The Deep Ecology of Rhetoric in Mencius and Aristotle: A Somatic Guide (SUNY Series in Chinese Philosophy and Culture (Hardcover))**

*Douglas Robinson*

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Mencius (385 303/302 BCE) and Aristotle (384 322 BCE) were contemporaries, but are often understood to represent opposite ends of the philosophical spectrum. Mencius is associated with the ecological, emergent, flowing, and connected; Aristotle with the rational, static, abstract, and binary. Douglas Robinson argues that in their conceptions of rhetoric, at least, Mencius and Aristotle are much more similar than different: both are powerfully socio-ecological, espousing and exploring collectivist thinking about the circulation of energy and social value through groups. The agent performing the actions of "pistis," persuading-and-being-persuaded, in Aristotle and "zhi," governing-and-being-governed, in Mencius is, Robinson demonstrates, not so much the rhetor as an individual as it is the whole group. Robinson tracks this collectivistic thinking through a series of comparative considerations using a theory that draws impetus from Arne Naess's ecosophical deep ecology and from work on rhetoric powered by affective ecologies, but with details of the theory drawn equally from Mencius and Aristotle."

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