

Elena Nicoli - An Excellent Presentation On Epicurean Pleasure

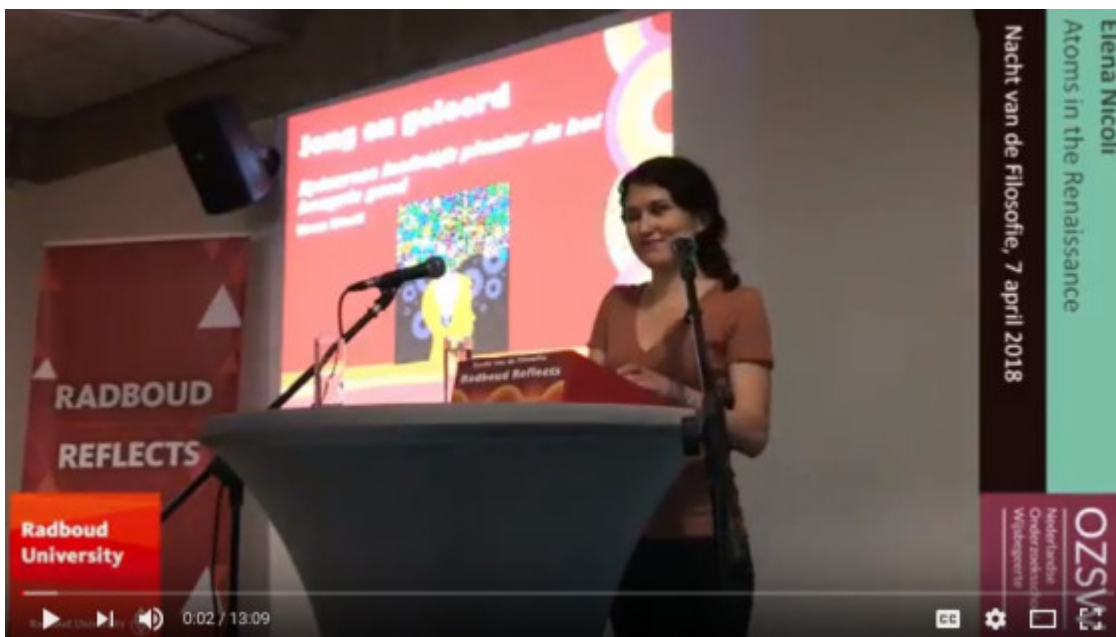
Post by "Cassius" of April 16, 2018 at 4:18 PM

I urge everyone in this group to watch [Elena Nicoli's excellent presentation on Epicurean pleasure](#), which the Dutch Research School of Philosophy has humorously mis-titled as "Atoms in the Renaissance." As quickly as I can I am going to prepare an outline of the major points of her talk and attach that to this thread for discussion and reference in the future. I think you will find that this talk is easy to follow, very clearly presented, and does a very good job of presenting the "standard" interpretation of Epicurean ethical theory on pleasure. In my view Ms. Nicoli avoids the worst of the conclusions of the standard theory. Even though she presumes the validity of the kinetic / katastematic distinction that is disputed by [Nikolsky](#), Wenham, and Gosling & Taylor (as detailed in our files section), she emphasizes the critical point: that Epicurus embraced "BOTH" of the two categories in dispute. As a result, she gives no hint of believing that life would best be spent living in a cave living a life of subsistence with only bread and water.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d5AQ655DqIc>

Just as with the presentation Ms. Nicoli recently posted to her Academia page ("[Reassessing Nussbaum's Interpretation of Epicurean Therapy](#)") it's clear that she is willing to challenge the orthodox criticism's of Epicurean philosophy. That presentation defends Epicurus against Nussbaum's charges that Epicurean philosophy is "not real philosophy" and that Epicurus "numbs the intellect and critical thinking." Those points alone would merit a major award from Lucian for "striking a blow for Epicurus!"

I urge everyone in the group to view this video as an example of how to present Epicurean philosophy to those who know very little about it, and then take a look at her [Academia page](#) and review her excellent writing on Epicurus.



<https://www.epicureanfriends.com/thread/389-elena-nicoli-an-excellent-presentation-on-epicurean-pleasure/?postID=974#post974>