

College of Charleston
Philosophy Visiting Speaker Series

**Wisdom, Courage, and
Natural Virtue in Plato's
Protagoras and *Laches***

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In this paper, I examine some neglected difficulties in Socrates' first attempt to show that courage is wisdom in Plato's *Protagoras*. I then argue (with help from his second attempt and from the *Laches*) that the most plausible resolutions of these difficulties reveal a complicated Socratic view of the relationships among boldness, courage, and wisdom. In particular, the difficulties are most easily resolved if Socrates accepts three grades of courage (natural courage, technical courage, and philosophical courage), and not merely the last of these, as standard interpretations have it.

Friday, September 25th 2009

3:30 p.m.

Education Center, Room 111

A reception will follow at 14 Glebe Street