

Marwan Rashed (Paris): Between Mathematics and Metaphysics. Body in the Tradition of the  
*Timaeus*

Abstract

To show how influential Plato's theory of matter was in Antiquity and Late Antiquity, I shall divide my talk into three parts.

In the first, I shall try to explain why, in the *Timaeus*, the  $\chi\acute{\omega}\rho\alpha$  stands halfway between physics and ethics. For this purpose, I shall focus on the *Timaeus*' second passage against the plurality of worlds (55C-D) and suggest, more specifically, a new interpretation of the five worlds hypothesis. I take this step to be crucial for a right understanding of the role of the  $\chi\acute{\omega}\rho\alpha$  in Plato's late ontology.

In the second part, I shall present a new Greek text, still unpublished, where Proclus addresses against Plotinus the ethical question of Platonic matter.

In the third part, I shall present another new Greek text, which might have preserved some elements of Posidonius' physical doctrine of space and matter according to the *Timaeus*.