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## ARISTOTLE ON ONTOLOGICAL PRIORITY IN THE *CATEGORIES*

Ana Laura Edelhoff  
*University of Oxford*



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Ana Laura Edelhoff  
*University of Oxford*

**Author for correspondence:** [analaura.edelhoff@some.ox.ac.uk](mailto:analaura.edelhoff@some.ox.ac.uk)

**Abstract:** The main objective of this Element is to reconstruct Aristotle's view on the nature of ontological priority in the *Categories*. Over the last three decades, investigations into ontological dependence and priority have become a major concern in contemporary metaphysics. Many see Aristotle as the originator of these discussions and, as a consequence, there is considerable interest in his own account of ontological dependence. In light of the renewed interest in Aristotelian metaphysics, it will be worthwhile – both historically and systematically – to return to Aristotle himself and to see how he conceived of ontological priority (what he calls “priority in substance” (*proteron kata ousian*) or “priority in nature” (*proteron tēi phusei*)), which is to be understood as a form of asymmetric ontological dependence.

**Keywords:** ontological priority, ontological dependence, Aristotle, Categories, primary substances

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