

*Aristotle on crafts and souls as principles of change*

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*Abstract:* Aristotle claims that the soul is a first principle of change (an “efficient cause”) of every vital change of an animal. He characterizes the soul as an “unmoved mover” with respect to all forms of vital change, illustrating this claim with an analogy: the soul is a cause of change in the way a craft (*techne*) is a cause of its product’s coming to be. In this paper, we intend to critically examine readings of the analogy present in the literature and to defend an alternative one that makes better sense of Aristotle’s view. We propose to understand the soul/craft analogy in terms of the activation of powers.