"Minding the soul-body gap: Synesius on the nature of pneuma"

By Anna Marmodoro (University of Oxford)

In this paper I investigate Synesius' approach to what we call the mind-body problem: how does the mental (the soul) interact with the physical (the body) given that they belong to two different categories of being? For Synesius the *pneuma* is what allows for the trans-categorical interaction of the mental with the physical. I examine the different accounts of the nature of the *pneuma* that he offers in the *De Insomnis*, and the philosophical resources he draws on for each of these accounts.