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Plato's Transformation of Early Pythagoreanism

There is a tension within current scholarship over the transformation of early Pythagoreanism in Plato's Academy. Burke, Huffman, and others tend to emphasize the distance between Plato's philosophy and his Pythagorean predecessors, and sometimes deny that Plato was a Pythagorean in any meaningful sense. Students of Plato's 'late, mathematical ontology,' such as Dillon, Kahn, Sayre, and others, however, tend to see it as a development of Pythagoreanism (even if they hesitate to accept the Tübingen School's picture of 'unwritten doctrines'). Now Phillip Horky's forthcoming book, *Plato and Pythagoreanism* (Oxford U. Press, June 2013), tries to find a middle ground by reasserting Plato's connections to the mathematical wing of early Pythagoreanism.

This contribution reassesses this debate in light of the claims made in my Apeiron article, 'Plato, Pythagoreanism, and Stichometry' (2010) and my book, The Musical Structure of Plato's Dialogues (Acumen, 2011). In particular, I claim that my work reinforces Horky's claims. Plato was a Pythagorean and absorbed the musico-mathematical tendencies of that tradition. This suggest that Plato's conception of philosophy was an extension of the Pythagorean way of life. I survey the debate over my research, especially recent critiques by Harvard's Rehding and McKay (Apeiron, 2011) and UCL's Andrew Gregory (Apeiron, 2012). I advance new arguments here that connect Plato's work to Archytas' music theory.

Biography:
Dr. John B. (Jay) Kennedy teaches at the University of Manchester. Prior to that he taught at the University of Notre Dame and spent a year doing research at Cambridge University. His doctorate is from Stanford University and his bachelor's degree from Princeton University.