



Michael Frede Memorial Lecture 2023 | 29 May

We are delighted to invite you to The Michael Frede Memorial Lecture on **Monday 29 May at 4pm (UK) / 6pm (Greece)**. This is a hybrid event, taking place both in-person at the British School at Athens (Souedias 52, Athens) and live online via Zoom. If attending in-person, the event will be followed by a wine reception.

Is happiness cumulative over time? An argument from Plotinus.

Professor Ursula Coope (Oxford)

Abstract: Is happiness the kind of thing that is cumulative over time? To many modern philosophers it has seemed obvious that the answer is yes. For example, Richard Kraut, in his recent book *The Quality of Life*, argues that the total happiness of a life is an aggregate: it can be calculated by adding up periods of well-being and subtracting periods of ill-being. Against this, it is striking that many ancient philosophers denied that happiness is the kind of thing that is cumulative over time. This talk is an attempt to understand why they denied this, and to say something about the notion of happiness that lies behind their view. I focus especially on a line of argument in Plotinus's *Enneads* I.5. After discussing Plotinus's argument, I raise a question about its practical relevance. If we accept Plotinus's view that happiness is not cumulative over time, what difference should this make to the way we live our lives?

Please **register** here to attend **online** via Zoom:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ZUh-vZImRB6BOr3K9yeCzg#/registration

Please **register** here to attend **in-person** in Athens:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/is-happiness-cumulative-over-time-an-argument-from-plotinus-tickets-630680992827>

We hope that you can join us!