

Brill, S. (2013) "Plato's Critical Theory", *Epoché*, 17(2): 233-48.

This paper argues that the creation of Kallipolis and the educational programme described therein should be read in the context of one branch of Plato's critique of Athenian democracy in the *Republic*; namely, its employment of the laconizing trope prominent in *Politeia* literature to identify and radicalize that desires galvanized by an idealize division of Spartan unity. In particular, I argue that the discussion of sexual difference in the famous first wave of Book 5, as well as the peculiar formulation of physis on which it rests and the account of familiar discord so decisive for the city's demise, should be read in light of the service they provide to Plato's reframing of ownership.