

# Philosophy of the Human Person

## Lecture #29

### Powers, Habits & Acts

#### Preliminary

human nature has two aspects

    bodily (physiological traits)

    mental (potentialities for behavior)

        active potentialities (Adler calls just these powers)

        passive potentialities

in studying human behavior, one must distinguish

    powers

        these are universal (common to all human beings)

        they are part of human nature

    habits

        these are variable

        they are not part of human nature

        (NB: social scientists who deny that there is such a thing as a universally shared human nature focus on habits, ignoring what Aristotelians identify as powers)

    acts

how do we know about these?

    we observe acts

    we infer the presence of habits or powers

        depending on whether the act is common to all human beings or variable

classification of intellectual powers

    cognitive

        theoretical (speculative)—focussed on knowing for its own sake

        practical—focussed on knowing for the sake of action

    appetitive

kinds of intellectual acts (theoretical intellect)

    apprehension

        conception—intuitive (direct) apprehension of objects of thought (concepts)

        cf. perception as intuitive apprehension of objects of sense

        these are abstracted from experience

        they are not true or false

    judgment

assertive affirmation or denial of connection between concepts  
these arise from

generalization from experience (induction)

intuitive induction—recognition of self-evident truth

experimental induction—recognition of probable truth on the basis of  
controlled situation

statistical induction

deduction from other judgments (see reasoning, below)

these can be true or false

depending on whether they correspond to the world

reasoning

discursive sequence of judgments leading to a conclusion

these can be correct (valid, cogent) or incorrect, but not true or false

their conclusions (being judgments) are true or false