

# Rereading The Sophists Classical Rhetoric Refigured

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in rereading the sophists of fifth century greece susan c jarratt reinterprets classical rhetoric with implications for current theory in rhetoric and composition provided by publisher

an expert in rhetoric offers a new perspective on the ancient concept of sophistry exploring why plato isocrates and aristotle found it objectionable in sophistical rhetoric in classical

greece john poulakos argues that a proper understanding of sophistical rhetoric requires a grasp of three cultural dynamics of the fifth century b c the logic of circumstances the ethic of competition and the aesthetic of exhibition traced to such phenomena as everyday practices athletic contests and dramatic performances these dynamics defined the role of sophistical rhetoric in hellenic culture and explain why sophistry has traditionally been understood as inconsistent agonistic and ostentatious in his discussion of ancient responses to sophistical rhetoric poulakos observes that plato isocrates and aristotle found sophistry morally reprehensible politically useless and theoretically incoherent at the same time they produced their own version of rhetoric that advocated ethical integrity political unification and theoretical coherence poulakos explains that these responses and alternative versions were motivated by a search for solutions to such historical problems as moral uncertainty political instability and social disorder poulakos concludes that sophistical rhetoric was as necessary in its day as its platonic isocratean and aristotelian counterparts were in theirs

an anthology of primary texts in translation an introduction to classical rhetoric offers an overview of the social cultural and intellectual factors that influenced the development and growth of rhetoric during the classical period uses primary source material to analyze rhetoric from the sophists through st augustine provides an in depth introduction to the period as well as introductions to each author and each selection includes study guides to help students develop multiple perspectives on the material stimulate critical thinking and provide starting points for dialogue highlights include gorgias s palamedes antiphon s truth isocrates helen and plato s protagoras each selection is followed by suggested writing topics and a short list of suggested additional readings

this book provides comprehensive information about ancient rhetorical theory in the form of highly detailed descriptive summaries of all the important authorities and works from greek and latin antiquity including works as yet untranslated into english these comprehensive summaries are not intended to replace the originals but rather to make them more accessible and useful pahe vii

continuing its tradition of providing students with a thorough review of ancient greek and roman rhetorical theory and practices a synoptic history of classical rhetoric is the premier text for undergraduate courses and graduate seminars in the history of rhetoric offering vivid examples of each classical rhetor rhetorical period and source text students are led to understand rhetoric s role in the exchange of knowledge and ideas completely updated throughout part i of this new edition integrates new research and expanded footnotes and bibliographies for students to develop their own scholarship part ii offers eight classical

texts for reading study and criticism and includes discussion questions and keys to the text in part i

barred from political engagement and legal advocacy the second sophists composed and performed epideictic works for audiences across the mediterranean world during the early centuries of the common era in a wide ranging study author susan c jarratt argues that these artfully wrought discourses formerly considered vacuous entertainments constitute intricate negotiations with the absolute power of the roman empire positioning culturally greek but geographically diverse sophists as colonial subjects jarratt offers readings that highlight ancient debates over free speech and figured discourse revealing the subtly coded commentary on roman authority and governance embedded in these works through allusions to classical greek literature sophists such as dio chrysostom aelius aristides and philostratus slipped oblique challenges to empire into otherwise innocuous works such figures protected their creators from the danger of direct confrontation but nonetheless would have been recognized by elite audiences roman and greek alike by virtue of their common education focusing on such moments jarratt presents close readings of city encomia biography and texts in hybrid genres from key second sophistic figures setting each in its geographical context although all the authors considered are male the analyses here bring to light reflections on gender ethnicity skin color language differences and sexuality revealing an underrecognized diversity in the rhetorical activity of this period while us scholars of ancient rhetoric have focused largely on the pedagogical jarratt brings a geopolitical lens to her study of the subject her inclusion of fourth century texts the greek novel ethiopian story by heliodorus and the political orations of libanius of antioch extends the temporal boundary of the period she concludes with speculations about the pressures brought to bear on sophistic political subjectivity by the rise of christianity and with ruminations on a third sophistic in ancient and contemporary eras of empire

a complex and complete picture of the theory practice and reception of sophistic argument recent decades have witnessed a major restoration of the sophists reputation revising the platonic and aristotelian orthodoxies that have dominated the tradition still lacking is a full appraisal of the sophists strategies of argumentation christopher w tindale corrects that omission in reason s dark champions viewing the sophists as a group linked by shared strategies rather than by common epistemological beliefs tindale illustrates that the sophists engaged in a range of argumentative practices in manners wholly different from the principal ways in which plato and aristotle employed reason by examining extant fifth century texts and the ways in which sophistic reasoning is mirrored by historians playwrights and philosophers of the classical world tindale builds a robust understanding of sophistic argument with relevance to contemporary studies of rhetoric and

communication beginning with the reception of the sophists in their own culture tindale explores depictions of the sophists in plato s dialogues and the argumentative strategies attributed to them as a means of understanding the threat sophism posed to platonic philosophical ambitions of truth seeking he also considers the nature of the sophistical refutation and its place in the tradition of fallacy tindale then turns to textual examples of specific argumentative practices mapping how sophists employed the argument from likelihood reversal arguments arguments on each side of a position and commonplace reasoning what emerges is a complex reappraisal of sophism that reorients criticism of this mode of argumentation expands understanding of sophistic contributions to classical rhetoric and opens avenues for further scholarship

greco roman rhetorical theorists insist that speakers must adapt their speeches to their audiences in order to maximize persuasiveness and minimize alienation ancient historians adorn their narratives with accounts of attempts at such rhetorical adaptation the outcomes of which decisively impact the subsequent course of events these depictions of speaker audience interactions moreover convey crucial didactic persuasive insights to the historians own audiences this monograph presents a detailed comparative analysis of the intra and extra textual functions of speeches and audience responses in greek historiography josephus and acts with special emphasis on luke s distinctive depiction of the apostles as adaptable yet frequently alienating orators this is volume i of a set of two volumes

in gorgias and the new sophistic rhetoric bruce mcomiskey achieves three rhetorical goals he treats a single sophist s rhetorical technê art in the context of the intellectual upheavals of fifth century bce greece thus avoiding the problem of generalizing about a disparate group of individuals he argues that we must abandon platonic assumptions regarding the sophists in general and gorgias in particular opting instead for a holistic reading of the gorgianic fragments and he reexamines the practice of appropriating sophistic doctrines particularly those of gorgias in light of the new interpretation of gorgianic rhetoric offered in this book in the first two chapters mcomiskey deals with a misconception based on selective and platonic readings of the extant fragments that gorgias s rhetorical technê involves the deceptive practice of manipulating public opinion this popular and ultimately misleading interpretation of gorgianic doctrines has been the basis for many neosophistic appropriations the final three chapters deal with the nature and scope of neosophistic rhetoric in light of the non platonic and holistic interpretation of gorgianic rhetoric mcomiskey postulates in his opening chapters he concludes by examining the future of communication studies to discover what roles neosophistic doctrines might play in the twenty first century mcomiskey also provides a selective bibliography of scholarship on

sophistic rhetoric and philosophy in english since 1900

the history and theory of rhetoric offers discussion of the history of rhetorical studies in the western tradition from ancient greece to contemporary american and european theorists that is easily accessible to students by tracing the historical progression of rhetoric from the greek sophists of the 5th century b c all the way to contemporary studies such as the rhetoric of science and feminist rhetoric this comprehensive text helps students understand how persuasive public discourse performs essential social functions and shapes our daily worlds students gain conceptual framework for evaluating and practicing persuasive writing and speaking in a wide range of settings and in both written and visual media known for its clear writing style and contemporary examples throughout the history and theory of rhetoric emphasizes the relevance of rhetoric to today s students

rhetoric and composition is an academic discipline that informs all other fields in teaching students how to communicate their ideas and construct their arguments it has grown dramatically to become a cornerstone of many undergraduate courses and curricula and it is a particularly dynamic field for scholarly research this book offers an accessible introduction to teaching and studying rhetoric and composition by combining the history of rhetoric explorations of its underlying theories and a survey of current research with practical examples and advice steven lynn offers a solid foundation for further study in the field readers will find useful information on how students have been taught to invent and organize materials to express themselves correctly and effectively and how the ancient study of memory and delivery illuminates discourse and pedagogy today this concise book thus provides a starting point for learning about the discipline that engages writing thinking and argument

representing current theory and research in rhetoric this volume brings together scholarship from a variety of orientations theoretical critical historical and pedagogical some contributions cover work that has previously been silenced or unrecognized including native american african american latino and women s rhetorics others explore rhetoric s relationship to performance and to the body or to revising canons stases topoi and pisteis still others are reworking the rhetorical lexicon to comprise contemporary theory among these diverse interests rhetoricians find common themes and share intellectual and pedagogical enterprises that hold them together even as their institutional situations keep them apart topics discussed in this collection include rhetoric as figurality comparative and contrastive rhetorics rhetoric and gender and rhetorics of science and technology rhetoric and reconceptions of the public sphere rhetoric and public memory and rhetorics of globalization and social change including issues of race ethnicity and

nationalism rhetoric's institutionalized place in the academy in relation to other humanities and to the interpretive social sciences and the place of rhetoric in the formation of departments and the development of pedagogy with its origins in the 2000 rhetoric society of america rsa conference this volume represents the range and vitality of current scholarship in rhetoric the conversations contained herein indicate that professing rhetoric is at the turn of the millennium an intellectual activity that engages with and helps formulate the most important public and scholarly questions of today as such it will be engaging reading for scholars and students and is certain to provoke further thought discussion and exploration

a clear and integrated discussion of how classical rhetoric influences contemporary practices poulakos poulakos identify ten themes common to the sophistical isocratean platonic and aristotelian approaches to classical rhetoric providing students with a clear framework for understanding the four approaches

here for the first time in one volume are all the extant writings focusing on rhetoric that were composed before the fall of rome this unique anthology of primary texts in classical rhetoric contains the work of 24 ancient writers from homer through st augustine including herodotus thucydides plato aristotle cicero quintilian tacitus and longinus along with many widely recognized translations special features include the first english translations of works by theon and nicolaus as well as new translations of two works by important sophists gorgias encomium on helen and alcidamas essay on composition the writers are grouped chronologically into historical periods allowing the reader to understand the scope and significance of rhetoric in antiquity introductions are included to each period as well as to each writer with writers biographies major works and salient features of excerpts

shows the unique perspective of talmudic rabbis as they navigate between platonic objective truth and the realm of rhetorical argumentation

at last a text that allows students to study the primary texts of classical rhetoric situated in their historical and social context williams selects judiciously among foundational texts and also offers rich introductory essays that make clear the historical intellectual and cultural setting in which the study of rhetoric took root david zarefsky northwestern university an introduction to classical rhetoric offers a scholarly alternative for students of classical rhetoric which is both accessible and engaging beth bennett university of alabama an anthology of primary texts in translation an introduction to classical rhetoric offers an overview of the social cultural and intellectual factors that influenced the development and growth of rhetoric during the classical period featuring classical rhetoric from the sophists

through st augustine williams provides an in depth introduction to the period as well as introductions to each author and each selection examples of rhetoric are interspersed between captivating thoughtprovoking explanations and analyses that give new context and meaning to these ancient texts each selection includes study questions to enable students to develop multiple perspectives on the material stimulate critical thinking and provide starting points for dialogue

george kennedy s three volumes on classical rhetoric have long been regarded as authoritative treatments of the subject this new volume an extensive revision and abridgment of the art of persuasion in greece the art of rhetoric in the roman world and greek rhetoric under christian emperors provides a comprehensive history of classical rhetoric one that is sure to become a standard for its time kennedy begins by identifying the rhetorical features of early greek literature that anticipated the formulation of metarhetoric or a theory of rhetoric in the fifth and fourth centuries b c e and then traces the development of that theory through the greco roman period he gives an account of the teaching of literary and oral composition in schools and of greek and latin oratory as the primary rhetorical genre he also discusses the overlapping disciplines of ancient philosophy and religion and their interaction with rhetoric the result is a broad and engaging history of classical rhetoric that will prove especially useful for students and for others who want an overview of classical rhetoric in condensed form

by tracing the traditional progression of rhetoric from the greek sophists to contemporary theorists this updated eighth edition gives students a conceptual framework for evaluating and practicing persuasive writing and speaking in a wide range of settings including written visual and digital media through an expansive historical purview the book illustrates how persuasive public discourse performs essential social functions and shapes our societies drawing on the ideas of many of history s greatest thinkers and theorists this new edition includes an integrated exploration of non western rhetorics an updated account of contemporary rhetoric and an enhanced analysis of rhetorical theory in a digital age known for its clear writing style and contemporary examples throughout the history and theory of rhetoric emphasizes the relevance of rhetoric to today s students this revised edition serves as a core textbook for rhetoric courses in both english and communication programs covering both the historical tradition of rhetoric and contemporary rhetoric studies a suite of online resources including a detailed instructor s manual powerpoint slides and videos from dr winslow can be found on the instructor and student resources website at [routledgelearning.com/historyofrhetoric](http://routledgelearning.com/historyofrhetoric)

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