

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-88774-8 - The End of Dialogue in Antiquity
Edited by Simon Goldhill
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

THE END OF DIALOGUE IN ANTIQUITY

'Dialogue' was invented as a written form in democratic Athens and made a celebrated and popular literary and philosophical style by Plato. Yet it almost completely disappeared in the Christian empire of late antiquity. This book, the first general and systematic study of the genre in antiquity, asks: who wrote dialogues and why? Why did dialogue no longer attract writers in the later period in the same way? Investigating dialogue goes to the heart of the central issues of power, authority, openness and playfulness in changing cultural contexts. This book analyses the relationship between literary form and cultural authority in a new and exciting way, and encourages closer reflection about the purpose of dialogue in its wider social, cultural and religious contexts in today's world.

SIMON GOLDHILL is Professor of Greek at the University of Cambridge and a Fellow of King's College. He has published widely on many aspects of Greek literature, including *Reading Greek Tragedy* (1986), *Foucault's Virginit*y (1995), *Who Needs Greek?* (2002) and *How to Stage Greek Tragedy Today* (2007). He is in demand as a lecturer all over the world and is a regular broadcaster on radio and television.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-88774-8 - The End of Dialogue in Antiquity

Edited by Simon Goldhill

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

THE END OF DIALOGUE IN ANTIQUITY

EDITED BY
SIMON GOLDHILL



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-88774-8 - The End of Dialogue in Antiquity
Edited by Simon Goldhill
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi
Cambridge University Press
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK
Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521887748

© Cambridge University Press 2008

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception
and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements,
no reproduction of any part may take place without
the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2008

Printed in the United Kingdom at the University Press, Cambridge

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data
The end of dialogue in antiquity / ed. Simon Goldhill.
p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-0-521-88774-8

1. Dialectic. 2. Dialogue. 3. Philosophy, Ancient. 4. Church history. 5. Dialogue – Religious aspects. I. Goldhill, Simon. II. Title.
B105.D48E53 2008
809'.926–dc22
2008040781

ISBN 978-0-521-88774-8 hardback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or
accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to
in this book, and does not guarantee that any content on such
websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

Contents

<i>Notes on Contributors</i>	page vii
Introduction: Why don't Christians do dialogue? <i>Simon Goldhill</i>	I
PART I CLASSICAL MODELS	13
1 Fictions of dialogue in Thucydides <i>Emily Greenwood</i>	15
2 The beginnings of dialogue: Socratic discourses and fourth-century prose <i>Andrew Ford</i>	29
3 Plato's dialogues and a common rationale for dialogue form <i>Alex Long</i>	45
PART II EMPIRE MODELS	61
4 Ciceronian dialogue <i>Malcolm Schofield</i>	63
5 Symptotic dialogue in the first to fifth centuries CE <i>Jason König</i>	85
PART III CHRISTIANITY AND THE THEOLOGICAL IMPERATIVE	115
6 Can we talk? Augustine and the possibility of dialogue <i>Gillian Clark</i>	117

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-88774-8 - The End of Dialogue in Antiquity
Edited by Simon Goldhill
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

vi	<i>Contents</i>	
7	‘Let’s (not) talk about it’: Augustine and the control of epistolary dialogue <i>Richard Miles</i>	135
	PART IV CHRISTIANITY AND THE SOCIAL IMPERATIVE	149
8	Christians, dialogues and patterns of sociability in late antiquity <i>Richard Lim</i>	151
9	Boethius, Gregory the Great and the Christian ‘afterlife’ of classical dialogue <i>Kate Cooper and Matthew Dal Santo</i>	173
	PART V JUDAISM AND THE LIMITS OF DIALOGUE	191
10	No dialogue at the symposium? Conviviality in Ben Sira and the Palestinian Talmud <i>Seth Schwartz</i>	193
11	Dialectic and divination in the Talmud <i>Daniel Boyarin</i>	217
	<i>Bibliography</i>	242
	<i>Index</i>	263

Cambridge University Press
 978-0-521-88774-8 - The End of Dialogue in Antiquity
 Edited by Simon Goldhill
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Notes on Contributors

DANIEL BOYARIN is Professor of Rabbinics at Berkeley, California, is one of the best-known figures in Jewish studies, particularly for his use of modern theory with ancient texts. His numerous books include *Midrash and Intertextuality* (1990); *Carnal Israel* (1993); *Paul: a Radical Jew* (1997); *Border Lines* (2004), which have become standards of the modern academy.

GILLIAN CLARK is Professor of Ancient History at Bristol and a renowned scholar of the philosophy and history of late antiquity and of Augustine in particular: she published *Augustine: The Confessions* (1993) and a commentary on the first four books of the *Confessions* (1995). *Women in Late Antiquity: Pagan and Christian Life Styles* and *Christianity and Roman Society* were both published in 2004.

KATE COOPER is Lecturer in Theology at Manchester. Her first book, *The Virgin and The Bride* (1996), was on interrelations between classical and Christian literature around the topic of virginity. Her most recent book, *The Fall of the Roman Household*, was published in 2007.

MATTHEW DAL SANTO is a Junior Research Fellow in History at Trinity College, Cambridge.

ANDREW FORD is Professor of Greek at Princeton, and an expert on the development of Greek genres and literary culture in archaic and classical Greece. His book *The Origins of Criticism: Literary Culture and Poetic Theory in Classical Greece* on the invention of criticism in the classical city was one of *Choice's* outstanding academic books of 2003.

SIMON GOLDHILL is Professor of Greek at Cambridge University and has published very widely on Greek literature. His most recent books are *Who Needs Greece?* (2002); *The Temple of Jerusalem* (2004); *Love, Sex and Tragedy* (2004); *How to Stage Greek Tragedy Today* (2007); and *Jerusalem, City of Longing* (2008).

Cambridge University Press
 978-0-521-88774-8 - The End of Dialogue in Antiquity
 Edited by Simon Goldhill
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

viii

Notes on Contributors

EMILY GREENWOOD is Lecturer in Classics at St Andrews. Her first book, *Thucydides and the Shaping of History*, was published in 2006. She has also co-edited two volumes of essays, one on Herodotus, *Reading Herodotus* (2007), and one on the modern reception of Homer, *Homer in the Twentieth Century* (2007).

JASON KÖNIG is Lecturer in Classics at St Andrews. His first book, *Athletics and Literature in the Roman Empire*, was published in 2005. His second book will be on the symposium and its literature in Empire culture.

RICHARD LIM is Professor of History at Smith College. His book *Public Disputation, Power, and Social Order in Late Antiquity* (1995) has become a standard work on the history of late antiquity.

ALEX LONG is now a Lecturer in Classics at St Andrews. His PhD thesis discusses Plato's conception of dialectic and uses of dialogue form.

RICHARD MILES is a fellow of Trinity Hall, Cambridge. He is an expert on late antique culture who is currently writing a book for Penguin on Carthage, following on from his major excavations there. He is the editor of *Constructing Identities in Late Antiquity* (1999).

MALCOLM SCHOFIELD is Professor of Ancient Philosophy at Cambridge. He has worked in many fields of ancient philosophy, and is author of a series of major articles on Cicero's philosophical writings, as well as the seminal *The Presocratic Philosophers* (with G. Kirk and J. Raven) and *The Stoic Idea of the City*. His most recent book is *Plato: Political Philosophy* (2006).

SETH SCHWARTZ is currently Professor of History at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York. His prize-winning book, *Imperialism and Jewish Society* (2001), is on the cultural interaction of Jews and Empire culture, and he is now finishing a book on ideas of reciprocity in Jewish culture.