This new collection of essays by well-known scholars of Seneca focuses on the multifaceted ways in which Seneca, as philosopher, politician, poet and Roman senator, engaged with the question of ethical selfhood. The contributors explore the main cruces of Senecan scholarship, such as whether Seneca’s treatment of the self is original in its historical context; whether Seneca’s Stoicism can be reconciled with the pull of rhetorical and literary self-expression; and how Seneca claims to teach psychic self-integration. Most importantly, the contributors debate to what degree, if at all, the absence of a technically articulated concept of selfhood should cause us to hesitate in seeking a distinctively Senecan self – one that stands out not only for the “intensity of its relations to self,” as Foucault famously put it, but also for the way in which those relations to self are couched.


**David Wray** is Associate Professor of Classics and Comparative Literature at the University of Chicago. His publications include *Catullus and the Poetics of Roman Manhood* (Cambridge, 2001).
## Contents

*Contributors*  
page vii  

*Acknowledgments*  
ix  

### I: Seneca and the Self: New Directions

1. Introduction  
   *Shadi Bartsch and David Wray*  
   page 3  

2. Seneca on the self: why now?  
   *A. A. Long*  
   page 20  

### II: Philosophical Perspectives

3. Seneca and self assertion  
   *Brad Inwood*  
   page 39  

4. Seneca and selfhood: integration and disintegration  
   *Christopher Gill*  
   page 65  

5. Stoic laughter: a reading of Seneca’s *Apocolocyntosis*  
   *Martha C. Nussbaum*  
   page 84  

### III: Seneca and Roman Culture

6. Seneca on fortune and the kingdom of god  
   *Elizabeth Asmis*  
   page 115  

7. Free yourself! Slavery, freedom and the self in Seneca’s *Letters*  
   *Catharine Edwards*  
   page 139  

   *James Ker*  
   page 160
Contents

9. Senecan metaphor and Stoic self-instruction 188
   Shadi Bartsch

IV: READING THE TRAGEDIES

10. Seneca and the denial of the self 221
    Alessandro Schiesaro

11. Seneca and tragedy’s reason 237
    David Wray

12. Dissolution of the self in the Senecan corpus 255
    Austin Busch

Bibliography 283
Index 298
Contributors

Elizabeth Asmis, Professor of Classics at the University of Chicago, is the author of *Epicurus’ Scientific Method* and numerous articles on Greek and Roman philosophy. She is currently working on aspects of Epicurean epistemology, the ethics of Philodemus and Lucretius, Roman Stoicism, ancient aesthetics, and the political thought of Cicero.

Shadi Bartsch is the W. Duncan MacMillan Professor of Classics at Brown University. She is most recently the author of *The Mirror of the Self: Sexuality, Self-Knowledge, and the Gaze in the Early Roman Empire*. She is currently at work on a book on metaphor in antiquity and editing *The Cambridge Companion to the Age of Nero*.

Austin Busch is Assistant Professor of Early World Literature in the Department of English at SUNY Brockport. He holds a double PhD in Classical Studies and Comparative Literature from Indiana University. His areas of expertise are New Testament and Roman imperial literature and he has published articles on Senecan tragedy, the letters of Paul, and the Gospel of Mark. He is currently co-editing with Herbert Marks and Gerald Hammond the New Testament volume of the forthcoming Norton Critical edition of the English Bible.

Catharine Edwards is Professor of Classics and Ancient History at Birkbeck, University of London, where she has been teaching in the School of History, Classics and Archaeology since 2001. Her interests center around the rhetoric of Roman moralizing, literary representations of Rome and Roman ideas of death, as well as the later reception of Roman antiquity. She co-edited (with Greg Woolf) *Rome the Cosmopolis* and is the author of *Death in Ancient Rome*. Her current projects include an edition of selected letters of Seneca for the Cambridge Greek and Latin Classics series.

Christopher Gill is Professor of Ancient Thought in the Department of Classics and Ancient History at the University of Exeter. His books
Notes on contributors

include _Personality in Greek Epic, Tragedy, and Philosophy: The Self in Dialogue, The Structured Self in Hellenistic and Roman Thought, and Naturalistic Psychology in Galen and Stoicism_ (forthcoming). He has also edited or co-edited a number of volumes of essays, including (with Susanna Morton Braund), _The Passions in Roman Thought and Literature._ He currently co-edits the journal _Phronesis._

**Brad Inwood** is University Professor of Classics and Philosophy and Canada Research Chair in Ancient Philosophy at the University of Toronto. He is the author of _Ethics and Human Action in Early Stoicism, The Poem of Empedocles, Reading Seneca: Stoic Philosophy at Rome, Seneca: Selected Philosophical Letters_, and the editor of the _Cambridge Companion to the Stoics_ and co-editor of several other volumes.

**James Ker** is Assistant Professor of Classical Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. He has written on Greek and Roman cultural history and imperial Latin literature and is completing a book on Seneca.

**A. A. Long** is Professor of Classics and Irving Stone Professor of Literature in the Department of Classics at the University of California, Berkeley, with affiliated appointments in the Departments of Philosophy and Rhetoric. He is the author of several books on Greek philosophy, including most recently _Stoic Studies, Epictetus. A Stoic and Socratic Guide to Life_, and _From Epicurus to Epictetus: Studies in Hellenistic and Roman Philosophy_. He is also the editor of _The Cambridge Companion to Early Greek Philosophy._

**Martha C. Nussbaum** is Ernst Freund Distinguished Service Professor of Law and Ethics at the University of Chicago, appointed in the Law School, Philosophy Department, and Divinity School. Her most recent book is _Liberty of Conscience: In Defense of America’s Tradition of Religious Equality._

**Alessandro Schiesaro** is Professor of Classics at the Facoltà di Scienze Umanistiche, Università di Roma, La Sapienza. Besides articles on Lucretius, Virgil, Seneca, and Apuleius, he is the author, most recently, of _The Passions in Play: Thyestes and the Dynamics of Senecan Drama_ and co-editor of _The Roman Cultural Revolution._

**David Wray** is Associate Professor of Classics and Comparative Literature at the University of Chicago. He is the author of _Catullus and the Poetics of Roman Manhood_ and of articles on Apollonius, Tibullus, and Seneca. He is currently writing a book on family systems in Greek and Roman epic.
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