The period from Plato’s birth to Aristotle’s death (427–322 BC) is one of the most influential and formative in the history of western philosophy. The developments of logic, metaphysics, epistemology, ethics and science in this period have been investigated, controversies have arisen and many new theories have been produced. But this is the first book to give detailed scholarly attention to the development of dialectic during this decisive period. It includes chapters on topics such as: dialectic as interpersonal debate between a questioner and a respondent; dialectic and the dialogue form; dialectical methodology; the dialectical context of certain forms of argument; the role of the respondent in guaranteeing good argument; dialectic and presentation of knowledge; the interrelations between written dialogues and spoken dialectic; and definition, induction and refutation from Plato to Aristotle. The book contributes to the history of philosophy and also to the contemporary debate about what philosophy is.

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Contents

List of contributors vii

Introduction
Jakob L. Fink 1

Part I. Dialectic as interpersonal activity
1. Self-refutation and dialectic in Plato and Aristotle
Luca Castagnoli 27
2. The role of the respondent in Plato and Aristotle
Marja-Liisa Kakkuri-Knuuttila 62
3. Division as a method in Plato
Hallvard Fossheim 91

Part II. Form and content in the philosophical dialogue
4. Dialectic and dialogue in the Lysis
Morten S. Thaning 115
5. The Laches and ‘joint search dialectic’
Holger Thesleff 138
6. The philosophical importance of the dialogue form for Plato
Charles H. Kahn 158
7. How did Aristotle read a Platonic dialogue?
Jakob L. Fink 174
### Contents

**PART III. DIALECTICAL METHODOLOGY**

8. What is behind the *ti esti* question?  
   **Vasili Politis**  
   199

9. Socratic induction in Plato and Aristotle  
   **Hayden W. Ausland**  
   224

10. Aristotle’s definition of elenchus in the light of Plato’s *Sophist*  
    **Louis-André Dorion**  
    251

11. The Aristotelian elenchus  
    **Robert Bolton**  
    270

12. Aristotle’s gradual turn from dialectic  
    **Wolfgang Kullmann**  
    296

*Bibliography*  
316  
*Index rerum*  
332  
*Index locorum*  
338  
*Index nominum*  
352
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