The Pregnant Male as Myth and Metaphor in Classical Greek Literature

This book traces the image of the pregnant male in Greek literature as it evolves over the course of the classical period. The image – as deployed in myth and in metaphor – originates as a representation of paternity and, by extension, “authorship” of ideas, works of art, legislation, and the like. Only later, with its reception in philosophy in the early fourth century, does it also become a way to figure and negotiate the boundary between the sexes. The book considers a number of important moments in the evolution of the image: the masculinist embryological theory of Anaxagoras of Clazomenae and other fifth-century pre-Socratics; literary representations of the birth of Dionysus; the origin and functions of pregnancy as a metaphor in tragedy, comedy, and the works of some Sophists; and finally the redeployment of some of these myths and metaphors in Aristophanes’ Assemblywomen and in Plato’s Symposium and Theaetetus.

David D. Leitao is Professor of Classics at San Francisco State University and Chair of the Departments of Classics and Comparative and World Literature. He has published articles in Classical Antiquity, Mnemosyne, and Materiali e Discussioni, as well as in numerous edited volumes.
The Pregnant Male as Myth and Metaphor in Classical Greek Literature

DAVID D. LEITAO

San Francisco State University
For John

ἰατρῷ δυστοκίας
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The names of most authors and works cited in this book may be found, with additional bibliographical information, in H. Liddell, R. Scott, and H. Jones, eds., *A Greek-English Lexicon*, 9th edition with supplement (Oxford, 1968), and P. Glare, ed., *Oxford Latin Dictionary* (Oxford, 1982). I have adopted most of their abbreviations of authors and works, except where clarity demanded a less-compressed abbreviation. I also employ abbreviations for the following reference works and special editions of some texts:

- **Aet.** Fragments of Aetius in H. Diels, ed., *Doxographi Graeci* (Berlin, 1879)
- **ARV¹** J. Beazley, *Attic Red-Figure Vase-Painters* (Oxford, 1942)
- **ARV²** J. Beazley, *Attic Red-Figure Vase-Painters*, 3 vols., 2nd ed. (Oxford, 1963)
- **IG** *Inscriptiones Graecae*, 14 vols. (Berlin, 1873–)
### Abbreviations and Editions

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<th>Abbreviation</th>
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For four texts, which are discussed at great length in the course of this book, I use the following editions:


All translations of ancient texts are my own unless otherwise indicated.