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052185847X - The Unity of Plato's *Gorgias*: Rhetoric, Justice, and the Philosophic Life

Devin Stauffer

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THE UNITY OF PLATO'S *GORGIAS*

This book brings out the complex unity of Plato's *Gorgias*. Through a careful analysis of the dialogue's three main sections, including Socrates' famous quarrel with his archrival Callicles, Devin Stauffer shows how the seemingly disparate themes of rhetoric, justice, and the philosophic life are woven together into a coherent whole. His interpretation of the *Gorgias* sheds new light on Plato's thought, showing that Plato and Socrates had a more favorable view of rhetoric than is usually supposed. Stauffer also challenges common assumptions concerning the character and purpose of some of Socrates' most famous claims about justice. Written as a close study of the *Gorgias*, *The Unity of Plato's Gorgias* treats broad questions concerning Plato's moral and political psychology and uncovers the view of the relationship between philosophy and rhetoric that guided Plato as he wrote his dialogues.

Devin Stauffer is Assistant Professor of Government at The University of Texas at Austin. He is the author of *Plato's Introduction to the Question of Justice* and coauthor and cotranslator of *Empire and the Ends of Politics: Plato's Menexenus and Pericles' Funeral Oration*.

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**RHETORIC, JUSTICE, AND THE PHILOSOPHIC
LIFE**

Devin Stauffer

The University of Texas at Austin



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