Plotinus on the Soul is a study of Plotinus’ psychology, which is arguably the most sophisticated Platonist theory of the soul in antiquity. Plotinus offers a Platonist response to Aristotelian and Stoic conceptions of the soul that is at the same time an innovative interpretation of Plato’s *Timaeus*. He considers the notion of the soul to be crucial for explaining the rational order of the world. To this end, he discusses not only different types of individual soul (such as the souls of the stars, and human and animal souls) but also an entity that he was the first to introduce into philosophy: the so-called hypostasis Soul. This is the first study to provide a detailed explanation of this entity, but it also discusses the other types of soul, with an emphasis on the human soul, and explains Plotinus’ original views on rational thought and its relation to experience.

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PLOTINUS ON THE SOUL

DAMIAN CALUORI
To the memory of Michael Frede

To the memory of my parents, Moritz and Agnes
Caluori-Caminada
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Preface and acknowledgements

During the summer semester of 2000 I attended a Blockseminar on Plotinus’ *Ennead* IV 8, taught by Michael Bordt and Michael Frede, at the Hochschule für Philosophie in Munich. The seminar left a deep impression on me and I am grateful to Michael Bordt for organising it. It was there that it first occurred to me to write my dissertation on Plotinus’ theory of the soul. This book is the result of that idea; it is a revised version of my DPhil thesis, written under the supervision of Michael Frede at the University of Oxford. I greatly benefited from Michael’s acute discernment and from his expertise in so many areas of ancient philosophy and beyond. His influence on my understanding of Plotinus and of ancient philosophy more generally is profound. But I also learned from him a method – how to do the history of philosophy. He is sorely missed.

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I had the great pleasure to spend part of the summer of 2012 at the Plato Centre in Dublin, where I presented a draft of Chapter 3. I would like to thank the audience, and in particular Vasilis Politis, David Horan, Peter Larsen and Philipp Steinkrüger. I warmly thank Harvey Yunis for inviting me to Rice, where I gave a paper that has been worked into Chapters 6 and 7. Other early versions of chapters were presented at the Scuola Normale in Pisa and at the annual conference of the International Society for Neoplatonic Studies in Helsinki in 2007. I would like to thank the audiences at Rice, at the Scuola Normale and in Helsinki for their questions, comments and critique. At the Cornell-Princeton Plotinus workshop in 2011 and 2013 I had the opportunity to present passages from the *Enneads* immediately relevant to the argument of this book. For valuable discussion I would like to thank the members of the workshop, in particular its organisers, Charles Brittain and Hendrik Lorenz. I spent many productive summers in the wonderful library of the Classics department of the University of Zurich. I am grateful to the department chairs Christoph Riedweg and Ulrich Eigler, as well as to their assistants, in particular to Francesca Dell’Oro. I greatly appreciate their warm hospitality.

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Corinne Pache and Justin Isenhart.

This book is dedicated to the memory of Michael Frede, and to the
memory of my parents, Agnes and Moritz Caluori-Caminada. I could not
have written it without them.
### Abbreviations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adv. Haer.</td>
<td>Adversus Haereses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AT</td>
<td>Adam &amp; Tannery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calc. In Ti.</td>
<td>Timaeus a Calcidio Translatus Commentarioque Instructus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMG</td>
<td>Corpus Medicorum Graecorum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cod.</td>
<td>codex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comm.not.</td>
<td>De Communibus Notitiis Adversus Stoicos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DA</td>
<td>De Anima</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>De An Procr.</td>
<td>De Animae Procreatione in Timaeo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>De Foet Form.</td>
<td>De Foetuum Formatione</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>De Plant.</td>
<td>De Plantis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>De Princ.</td>
<td>De Principiis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>De Soll.</td>
<td>De Sollertia Animalium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DG</td>
<td>Doxographi Graeci</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Didasc.</td>
<td>Didascalicus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diss.</td>
<td>Dissertationes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enn.</td>
<td>Enneads</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epiph.</td>
<td>Epiphanius</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hex.</td>
<td>Hexaemeron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Phys.</td>
<td>In Aristotelis Physica Commentaria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irris.</td>
<td>Gentilium Philosophorum Irrisio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mant.</td>
<td>Mantissa</td>
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<tr>
<td>or.</td>
<td>oratio</td>
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<td>Ord.</td>
<td>Ordinatio</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phys.</td>
<td>Physics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plac.</td>
<td>Placita</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prop. Plac.</td>
<td>De Propriis Placitis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q</td>
<td>quaestio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quodl.</td>
<td>Quodlibeta</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rep.</td>
<td>Republic</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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List of abbreviations

s.v. sub voce
Soph. Sophist
SVF Stoicorum Veterum Fragmenta
V.P. Vita Plotini

Abbreviations of Greek authors, texts and references to works not listed above follow the Greek-English Lexicon by Liddell, Scott & Jones, while abbreviations of Latin authors, texts and references to works not listed above follow the Thesaurus Linguæ Latinae.