

APPROACHES TO LUCRETIUS

Both in antiquity and ever since the Renaissance Lucretius' *De Rerum Natura* has been admired – and condemned – for its startling poetry, its evangelical faith in materialist causation, and its seductive advocacy of the Epicurean good life. *Approaches to Lucretius* assembles an international team of classicists and philosophers to take stock of a range of critical approaches to which this influential poem has given rise and which in turn have shaped its interpretation, including textual criticism, the text's strategies for engaging the reader with its author and his message, the 'atomology' that posits a correlation of the letters of the poem with the atoms of the universe, the literary and philosophical intertexts that mediate the poem, and the political and ideological questions that it raises. Thirteen essays take up a variety of positions within these traditions of interpretation, innovating within them and advancing beyond them in new directions.

DONNCHA O'ROURKE is Lecturer in Classics at the University of Edinburgh. He is author of *Propertius and the Virgilian Sensibility* (Cambridge, forthcoming) and co-editor of *Didactic Poetry of Greece, Rome and Beyond: Knowledge, Power, Tradition* (Swansea, 2019).

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*Traditions and Innovations in Reading
the De Rerum Natura*

EDITED BY
DONNCHA O'ROURKE
University of Edinburgh



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Notes on Contributors

ELIZABETH ASMIS, Professor of Classics at the University of Chicago, is author of *Epicurus' Scientific Method* (Ithaca, 1984). She has written extensively on ancient Greek and Roman philosophy and aesthetics, with special attention to developments after Aristotle. She is currently working on Epicurean social philosophy and the reception of Greek philosophy in the Roman period and later.

DAVID BUTTERFIELD is Senior Lecturer in Classics at the University of Cambridge and Fellow and Director of Studies in Classics at Queens' College. He is the author of *The Early Textual History of Lucretius' De Rerum Natura* (Cambridge, 2013) and the editor of *A. E. Housman: Classical Scholar* (London, 2009) and *Varro Varius: The Polymath of the Roman World* (Cambridge, 2015). He has published numerous articles, mainly on textual criticism, codicology and the history of scholarship, and is currently preparing a new Oxford Classical Text of Lucretius.

JOSEPH FARRELL is Professor of Classical Studies and M. Mark and Esther K. Watkins Professor in the Humanities at the University of Pennsylvania. His books include *Vergil's Georgics and the Traditions of Ancient Epic* (Oxford, 1991), *Latin Language and Latin Culture* (Cambridge, 2001) and *Juno's Aeneid: Narrative, Metapoetics, Dissent* (Princeton, forthcoming).

EMMA GEE was educated at the Universities of Sydney and Cambridge, and has worked at the Universities of Exeter, Sydney and St Andrews. She is currently an independent scholar in the Classics, academic tutor, and student and teacher of Ashtanga yoga. Her research interests include ancient astronomy and its reception, and the ancient afterlife. Her latest book, *Mapping the Afterlife from Homer to Dante*, is forthcoming (Oxford, 2020).

NORA GOLDSCHMIDT is Associate Professor of Classics and Ancient History at Durham University. Her publications include *Shaggy Crowns: Ennius' Annales and Virgil's Aeneid* (Oxford, 2013), *Afterlives of the Roman Poets: Biofiction and the Reception of Latin Poetry* (Cambridge, 2019) and (with Barbara Graziosi) *Tombs of the Ancient Poets: Between Literary Reception and Material Culture* (Oxford, 2018).

DUNCAN F. KENNEDY is Emeritus Professor of Latin Literature and the Theory of Criticism at the University of Bristol. He is the author of *The Arts of Love: Five Studies in the Discourse of Roman Love Elegy* (Cambridge, 1992), *Rethinking Reality: Lucretius and the Textualization of Nature* (Ann Arbor, 2002) and *Antiquity and the Meanings of Time: A Philosophy of Ancient and Modern Literature* (London, 2013), as well as numerous articles that explore the interpretation of classical literature. He is currently writing a series of essays on the emergence of metaphysical thinking.

A. D. MORRISON is Professor of Greek at the University of Manchester, where he has taught since 2001. His books include *The Narrator in Archaic Greek and Hellenistic Poetry* (Cambridge, 2007), *Apollonius Rhodius, Herodotus and Historiography* (Cambridge, 2020) and (as co-editor) *Lucretius: Poetry, Philosophy, Science* (Oxford, 2013). He edited *Classical Quarterly* between 2013 and 2018. Current projects include a commentary on Callimachus for the Cambridge Greek and Latin Classics series, a *G&R* New Survey on Hellenistic poetry and co-directing the AHRC project on Ancient Letter Collections (2016–21).

JASON NETHERCUT is Assistant Professor of Classics at the University of South Florida. His publications and ongoing research focus on Lucretius and his position in literary history, and on the relationship between poetry and philosophy in the *De Rerum Natura*. His book, *Ennius Noster: Lucretius and the Annales*, is forthcoming with Oxford University Press.

TIM O'KEEFE is Associate Professor of Philosophy at Georgia State University. He has published extensively on Epicureanism, including two books – *Epicurus on Freedom* (Cambridge, 2005) and *Epicureanism* (London, 2009) – and articles on topics such as the Epicureans on the mind–body relation, freedom of action, sensible qualities, friendship, justice and death. His interests range broadly, and he has also published on the Pyrrhonian sceptics, the Cyrenaics and Aristotle's cosmology.

DONNCHA O'ROURKE is Lecturer in Classics at the University of Edinburgh. His doctoral career at Trinity College Dublin was followed by a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship at Corpus Christi College, Oxford. He is the author of *Propertius and the Virgilian Sensibility* (Cambridge, forthcoming) and of articles on various aspects of Augustan poetry, especially elegy. His other editorial projects include (with Lilah Grace Canevaro) *Didactic Poetry of Greece, Rome and Beyond: Knowledge, Power, Tradition* (Swansea, 2019) and (with Isabelle Torrance) *Classics and Irish Politics, 1916–2016* (Oxford, 2020).

WILSON H. SHEARIN is Associate Professor of Classics at the University of Miami. He is author of *The Language of Atoms* (Oxford, 2015) and co-editor of *Dynamic Reading* (Oxford, 2012). Currently, he is writing on Lucretius and Lucan and completing editorial work on *The Oxford Handbook of Roman Philosophy*.

BARNABY TAYLOR is Fellow and Tutor in Classics at Exeter College, Oxford, and Associate Professor of Classics at the University of Oxford. His interests include Lucretius, Cicero and Varro.

FABIO TUTRONE is a Research and Teaching Fellow in Latin literature at the University of Palermo. His research focuses on the history of Roman literature, science and philosophy, with special regard to Lucretius, Seneca and the Latin reception of Greek thought. He has particular interest in literary topics of cognitive and anthropological relevance. His publications include *Filosofi e animali in Roma antica: Modelli di animalità e umanità in Lucrezio e Seneca* (Pisa, 2012).

Preface

This volume has its origin – albeit now somewhat remotely – in a conference on ‘Lucretius in Theory’ held at the University of Edinburgh in late 2013. That event, of which *Approaches to Lucretius* is the end-product, took place in connection with the editor’s tenure of a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship, and was made possible by generous funding from that source. Also to be gratefully acknowledged is the additional support towards the material costs of the conference received from the School of History, Classics and Archaeology at the University of Edinburgh, the Classical Association and the Institute of Classical Studies.

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Abbreviations

Abbreviations for ancient authors and texts generally follow the conventions of the fourth edition of the *Oxford Classical Dictionary* (eds. S. Hornblower, A. Spawforth and E. Eidinow; Oxford, 2012). Journal titles are abbreviated according to the conventions of *L'Année Philologique*. The following standard abbreviations are also used:

Arrighetti	Arrighetti, G. (1973) <i>Epicuro: Opere</i> . Turin.
CW I	Marx, K., and Engels, F. (1975) <i>Collected Works Vol. I: Karl Marx: 1835–43</i> . New York.
DK	Diels, H., and Kranz, W. (eds.) (1951) <i>Die Fragmente der Vorsokratiker</i> (4 vols.). Berlin.
KD	Epicurus, <i>Kuriai Doxai</i> (= Diogenes Laertius 10.139–54).
MEGA	Marx, K., and Engels, F. (1975) <i>Karl Marx, Friedrich Engels Gesamtausgabe</i> . Berlin.
MEW	Marx, K., and Engels, F. (1968) <i>Werke. Ergänzungsband Part I: Schriften, Manuskripte, Briefe bis 1844</i> . Berlin.
MRR	Broughton, T. R. S. (1951–2) <i>The Magistrates of the Roman Republic</i> (2 vols.). Cleveland; (1986) Vol. 3. Supplement. Atlanta.
RAC	Klauser, T., et al. (eds.) (1941–2000) <i>Reallexikon für Antike und Christentum: Sachwörterbuch zur Auseinandersetzung des Christentums mit der antiken Welt</i> . 23 vols. Stuttgart.
RE	Pauly, A., Wissowa, G., et al. (eds.) (1839–1980) <i>Pauly's Real-Encyclopädie der classischen Altertumswissenschaft</i> . 24 vols., 19 vols., and supplement (15 vols.). Stuttgart.
Roscher	Roscher, W. H. (1884–1937) <i>Ausführliches Lexikon der griechischen und römischen Mythologie</i> . 6 vols. and supplement. Leipzig.
Usener	Usener, H. (1887) <i>Epicurea</i> . Leipzig. (Reprinted with Italian translation and notes by I. Ramelli: Milan, 2002.)