

THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO  
THE SOPHISTS

The Classical Greek Sophists – Protagoras, Gorgias, Prodicus, Hippias, and Antiphon, among others – are some of the most important figures in the flourishing of linguistic, historical, and philosophical reflection at the time of Socrates. They are also some of the most controversial; what makes the Sophists distinctive, and what they contributed to fifth-century intellectual culture, have been hotly debated since the time of Plato. They have often been derided as reactionaries, relativists, cynically superficial thinkers, or even mere opportunists, making money from wealthy democrats eager for public repute. This volume takes a fresh perspective on the Sophists – who really counted as one; how distinctive they were; and what kind of sense later thinkers made of them. In three parts, contributors address the Sophists’ predecessors and historical and professional context; their major intellectual themes, including language, ethics, society, and religion; and their reception from the fourth century BCE to modernity.

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*The Cambridge Companion to the*  
**SOPHISTS**

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## Note on the Text

Citations of early Greek philosophical texts take the form P/D/R #; A/B/C # (e.g., P1/A1). The first citation refers to the numeration in *Early Greek Philosophy*, ed. A. Laks and G. Most, 9 vols., Cambridge, MA, 2016 [LM]; the second citation refers to the numeration in *Die Fragmente der Vorsokratiker*, ed. H. Diels and W. Kranz, 3 vols., Zürich, 1951 [DK]. Citations of other classical texts follow standard numeration procedures and, where possible, are based on the current Oxford Classical Text.

### Further Editions Cited by Abbreviation

- BNJ:** *Brill's New Jacoby*, ed. I. Worthington, Leiden, 2006–.
- CEG:** *Carmina Epigraphica Graeca. Saeculi IV a Chr. (CEG 2)*, ed. P. A. Hansen, Berlin, 1989.
- KA:** *Poetae Comici Graecae*, eds. R. Kassel and C. Austin, Berlin, 1983–.
- EGM:** *Early Greek Mythography*, ed. R. L. Fowler, 2 vols., Oxford, 2000–13.
- IG I<sup>3</sup>:** *Inscriptiones Graecae I: Inscriptiones Atticae Euclidis anno anteriores*, 3rd edn. Berlin, 1981, 1994. Fasc. 2, eds. D. Lewis and L. Jeffery, *Dedications. Catalogi. Termini. Tituli sepulcrales. Varia. Tituli Attici extra Atticam reperti. Addenda*.
- SEG:** *Supplementum Epigraphicum Graecum*, eds. A. Chaniotis, T. Corsten, N. Papazarkadas, and E. Stavrianopoulou. Leiden, 1923.
- SSR:** *Socratis et Socratorum Reliquiae*, ed. G. Giannantoni, 4 vols., Naples, 1990.
- TrGF:** *Tragicorum Graecorum Fragmenta*, eds. B. Snell, R. Kannicht, and Stefan Radt, 5 vols., Göttingen, 1971–2004.