

‘This volume provides an up-to-date and searching reconstruction of Epicurean political thought, which sets the familiar slogans of “Live unknown!” and “Do not engage in politics!” within the subtle and careful framework of Epicurean philosophy. It makes a positive case for a nuanced and sophisticated philosophical outlook and presents the wide range of evidence for Epicureans’ practical political engagement from the Hellenistic Garden to the Roman Imperial period.’

JAMES WARREN, Professor of Ancient Philosophy and Fellow of Corpus Christi College, University of Cambridge, UK

The opponents of Epicureanism in antiquity, including Cicero, Plutarch and Lactantius, succeeded in establishing a famous cliché: the theoretical and practical disinterest of Epicurus and the Epicureans in political communities. However, this anti-Epicurean literature did not provide considerations of Epicurean political theory or the testimonies about Epicurean lifestyle. The purpose of this book is to shed light on the contribution of Epicurean thought to political life in the ancient world.

Incorporating the most up-to-date material, including papyri, documents of Greek epigraphy and the prosopography of the Roman Epicureans, this volume will bring to the foreground new testimonies surrounding the public activities of the Epicureans. The reader will learn that Epicurean political theory is, in fact, a crucial ingredient of its philosophy. As a result, this connection creates an ongoing dialogue with the Greek philosophical tradition, revealing the presence of Plato in Epicurean philosophy.

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Marcelo D. Boeri

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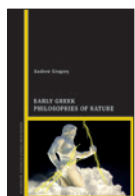
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