

## HERODOTUS AND THE PRESOCRATICS

Herodotus' *Histories* was composed well before the genre of Greek historiography emerged as a distinct narrative enterprise. This book explores the *Histories*' place in its fifth-century BCE context, juxtaposing the text with the extant fragments of Presocratic treatises, as well as philosophizing tragedy and comedy. In doing so, it argues for the *Histories*' competitive engagement with contemporary intellectual culture. It demonstrates the ambition of the *Histories* as an experimental prose work, tracing its responses to key debates on relativism, human nature, and epistemology. In addition to expanding the intellectual milieu of which the *Histories* is a part and restoring its place in Presocratic thought, K. Scarlett Kingsley elucidates fourth-century philosophy's subsequent engagement with the work. In doing so, she contributes to a revision of the sharp separation between the ancient genres of philosophy and history. This title is part of the Flip it Open Programme and may also be available Open Access. Check our website Cambridge Core for details.

K. SCARLETT KINGSLEY is an assistant professor of Classics at Agnes Scott College. She is the coeditor, with Tim Rood and Giustina Monti, of *The Authoritative Historian: Tradition and Innovation in Ancient Historiography* (2023) and is currently coauthoring *Land, Wealth, and Empire in Herodotus: Reading the End of the Histories* (forthcoming) with Tim Rood.



# HERODOTUS AND THE PRESOCRATICS

*Inquiry and Intellectual Culture in the Fifth Century BCE*

K. SCARLETT KINGSLEY

*Agnes Scott College*





CAMBRIDGE  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom  
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA  
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia  
314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi – 110025, India  
103 Penang Road, #05-06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment,  
a department of the University of Cambridge.

We share the University's mission to contribute to society through the pursuit of  
education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)

Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781009338547](http://www.cambridge.org/9781009338547)

DOI: [10.1017/9781009338530](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009338530)

© K. Scarlett Kingsley 2024

This work is in copyright. It is subject to statutory exceptions and to the provisions of relevant  
licensing agreements; with the exception of the Creative Commons version the link for which is  
provided below, no reproduction of any part of this work may take place without the written  
permission of Cambridge University Press.

An online version of this work is published at [doi.org/10.1017/9781009338530](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009338530) under a  
Creative Commons Open Access license CC-BY-NC 4.0 which permits re-use, distribution and  
reproduction in any medium for non-commercial purposes providing appropriate credit to the  
original work is given. You may not distribute derivative works without permission. To view  
a copy of this license, visit <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>

All versions of this work may contain content reproduced under license from third parties.  
Permission to reproduce this third-party content must be obtained from these third-parties directly.

When citing this work, please include a reference to the DOI [10.1017/9781009338530](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009338530)

First published 2024

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library*

*Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data*

NAMES: Kingsley, K. Scarlett, 1984- author  
TITLE: Herodotus and the Presocratics : inquiry and intellectual culture in the fifth century  
BCE / K. Scarlett Kingsley, Agnes Scott College, Decatur.  
OTHER TITLES: Inquiry and intellectual culture in the fifth century BCE  
DESCRIPTION: Cambridge, United Kingdom ; New York : Cambridge University Press, 2024. |  
Includes bibliographical references and index.  
IDENTIFIERS: LCCN 2023036431 (print) | LCCN 2023036432 (ebook) | ISBN 9781009338547  
(hardback) | ISBN 9781009338509 (paperback) | ISBN 9781009338530 (ebook)  
SUBJECTS: LCSH: Herodotus—Criticism and interpretation. | History—Philosophy. | Pre-Socratic  
philosophers. | Philosophy, Ancient.  
CLASSIFICATION: LCC D56.52.H45 K56 2024 (print) | LCC D56.52.H45 (ebook) |  
DDC 938.007202—dc23/eng/20230812  
LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2023036431>  
LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2023036432>

ISBN 978-1-009-33854-7 Hardback

ISBN 978-1-009-33850-9 Paperback

Cambridge University Press & Assessment has no responsibility for the persistence  
or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this  
publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will  
remain, accurate or appropriate.