



# Socratic and Platonic Political Philosophy: Practicing a Politics of Reading

*Christopher P. Long*

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In the *Gorgias*, Socrates claims to practice the true art of politics, but the peculiar politics he practices involves cultivating in each individual he encounters an erotic desire to live a life animated by the ideals of justice, beauty and the good. *Socratic and Platonic Political Philosophy* demonstrates that what Socrates sought to do with those he encountered, Platonic writing attempts to do with readers. Christopher P. Long's attentive readings of the *Protagoras*, *Gorgias*, *Phaedo*, *Apology*, and *Phaedrus* invite us to cultivate the habits of thinking and responding that mark the practices of both Socratic and Platonic politics. Platonic political writing is here experienced in a new way as the contours of a politics of reading emerges in which the community of readers is called to consider how a commitment to speaking the truth and acting toward justice can enrich our lives together.

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