

**Holmes, B. (2010) *The Symptom and the Subject: The Emergence of the Physical Body in Ancient Greece*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2010. Paperback edition, 2014.**

This book argues that the concept of the physical body emerges through changes in the interpretations of symptoms in the fifth and fourth centuries BCE. Beginning with Homer, moving through sixth- and fifth-century scientific and medical writers, and ending with Euripidean tragedy, it shows how the interpretation of symptoms maps the changing relationship between human beings and nonhuman forces within cosmologies and anthropologies of nature being written in Greek. By historicizing the physical body as a concept, it offers a new perspective on the longstanding feminization of the body and matter more generally as well as the forms of defensive masculinity produced by anxieties about the limits of autarchy.