



Rhetoric and Kairos: Essays in History, Theory, and Praxis

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The first comprehensive discussion of the history, theory, and practice of kairos: that is of the role “timeliness” or “right-timing” plays in human deliberation, speech, and action.

This collection offers the first comprehensive discussion of the history, theory, and pedagogical applications of *kairos*, a seminal and recently revised concept of classical rhetoric. Augusto Rostagni, James L. Kinneavy, Richard Leo Enos, John Poulakos, and John E. Smith are among the international list of scholars who explore the Homeric and literary origins of *kairos*, the technologies of time-keeping in antiquity, the role of “right-timing” in Hippocratic medicine, the improvisations of Gorgias, as well as the uses of *kairos* in Isocrates, Plato, Aristotle, Cicero, and the *New Testament*. Broad in its scope, the book also examines the distinctive philosophies of time reflected in Renaissance Humanism, Nineteenth-Century American Transcendentalism, Oriental art and ritual, and the application of *kairos* to contemporary philosophy, ethics, literary criticism, rhetorical theory, and composition pedagogy.

“What is most commendable about this book is the broadness of its scope, embracing in some fashion or another all the disciplines of the humanities, its essays covering topics as diverse as biblical references to *kairos* to the place of *kairos* in medicine and writing in the sciences. Worthy of special note is the effort to apply the idea of *kairos* to the practical aspects of writing in the composition classroom.” — Bernard A. Miller, Eastern Michigan University

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