Short Summary

In spite of renewed interest in Hellenistic philosophy, it remains very difficult to study, especially for university students and non-specialists. The writings that survive from this period are mostly secondary quotations. We are extraordinarily dependent on later writers, many of whom express hostility for Hellenistic philosophers. The situation improved vastly with the 1987 publication of *The Hellenistic Philosophers* (Cambridge University Press). In two volumes, Anthony A. Long and David N. Sedley bring together a volume of English translation and commentary with a second volume containing the corresponding original Greek or Latin texts.

Unfortunately, the section on scepticism suffers not only because of the scarcity of sources - which is no fault of Long and Sedley - but also because a number of key texts are omitted without warrant. These texts illuminate the Academy's longstanding polemical relationship with Stoicism that dates back to Polemo, and the onset of Academic scepticism in the early Hellenistic period that continues and transforms that polemic. The primary objective of this project is integrate these omissions into the study of Hellenistic philosophy and improve the understanding of scepticism in the Hellenistic period with a book dedicated to early Academic scepticism, interpreting all the available evidence from antiquity.

With the first book-length study on the Academic turn to scepticism, the book shifts the interpretive framework from epistemology to practical ethics. This shift is the second objective of the project, and it uncovers the origin of the Academic turn to scepticism in Polemo's polemics with Zeno. And finally, the third objective is to approach the field of ancient ethics for the first time from the perspective of Academic scepticism, and its break from teleological program of teaching ethics.