The Origins Of Rhetoric In Ancient Greece

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Rhetoric As A Feature of Early Civilizations

Christian Myer (2006:1) says “The scholarly myth of origin has it that rhetoric developed in Ancient Greece. Why Meyer does not challenge what he acknowledges as myth is unclear, but this implication of the Greek provenance of rhetoric is demonstrably false. This is not to deny the Greek’s particular cultivation of rhetoric into a formal disputatious art suited to their emerging democracies, but there can be little doubt that the ancient Egyptians have a better claim to being the originators of rhetoric or what they called ‘good speech.’

Our understanding of the origins and early development of Greek rhetoric can be enlarged and sharpened by attending to the specific historical, cultural, and material contexts in which it was embedded. We perceive the cultural meanings and physical challenges of Greek... Rhetoric in Ancient Greece: The Bouleutêrion as a Venue for Oratorical Performance, Advances in the History of Rhetoric, 21:1, 2-88, DOI: 10.1080/15362426.2018.1419744. To link to this article: https://doi.org/10.1080/15362426.2018.1419744.