

SENECA'S CHARACTERS

Seneca's Characters addresses one of the most enduring and least theorised elements of literature: fictional character and its relationship to actual, human selfhood. Where does the boundary between character and person lie? While the characters we encounter in texts are obviously not 'real' people, they still possess person-like qualities that stimulate our attention and engagement. How is this relationship formulated in contexts of theatrical performance, where characters are set in motion by actual people, actual bodies and voices? This book addresses such questions by focusing on issues of coherence, imitation, appearance, and autonomous action. It argues for the plays' sophisticated treatment of character, their acknowledgement of its purely fictional ontology alongside deep – and often dark – appreciation of its quasi-human qualities. *Seneca's Characters* offers a fresh perspective on the playwright's powerful tragic aesthetics that will stimulate scholars and students alike.

ERICA M. BEXLEY is an Associate Professor of Classics at Durham University. She has published in *Classical Philology*, *The Classical Journal*, *Trends in Classics*, the *Cambridge Classical Journal*, and *Mnemosyne*. This is her first book.

CAMBRIDGE CLASSICAL STUDIES

General editors

J. P. T. CLACKSON, W. M. BEARD, G. BETEGH,
R. L. HUNTER, M. J. MILLETT, S. P. OAKLEY, R. G. OSBORNE,
C. VOUT, T. J. G. WHITMARSH

SENECA'S CHARACTERS

Fictional Identities and Implied Human Selves

ERICA M. BEXLEY

University of Durham



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
New Delhi – 110025, India

103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108477604

DOI: [10.1017/9781108770040](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781108770040)

© Faculty of Classics, University of Cambridge 2022

This work is in copyright. It is subject to statutory exceptions and to the provisions of relevant licensing agreements; with the exception of the Creative Commons version the link for which is provided below, no reproduction of any part of this work may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

An online version of this work is published at doi.org/10.1017/9781108770040 under a Creative Commons Open Access license CC-BY-NC-ND 4.0 which permits re-use, distribution and reproduction in any medium for non-commercial purposes providing appropriate credit to the original work is given. You may not distribute derivative works without permission. To view a copy of this license, visit <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0>

All versions of this work may contain content reproduced under license from third parties.

Permission to reproduce this third-party content must be obtained from these third-parties directly.

When citing this work, please include a reference to the DOI [10.1017/9781108770040](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781108770040)

First published 2022

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

NAMES: Bexley, Erica M., 1982– author.

TITLE: Seneca's characters : fictional identities and implied human selves / Erica M. Bexley.

DESCRIPTION: Cambridge, United Kingdom ; New York, NY : Cambridge University Press, 2022. | Series: Cambridge classical studies | Includes bibliographical references and index.

IDENTIFIERS: LCCN 2021037868 (print) | LCCN 2021037869 (ebook) | ISBN 9781108477604 (hardback) | ISBN 9781108725774 (paperback) | ISBN 9781108770040 (ebook)

SUBJECTS: LCSH: Seneca, Lucius Annaeus, approximately 4 B.C.-65 A.D. – Tragedies. | Seneca, Lucius Annaeus, approximately 4 B.C.-65 A.D. – Characters. | Characters and characteristics in literature. | Human behavior in literature. | BISAC: HISTORY / Ancient / General | LCGFT:

Literary criticism.

CLASSIFICATION: LCC PA6686 .B49 2022 (print) | LCC PA6686 (ebook) | DDC 872/.01–dc23/eng/20211027

LC record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2021037868>

LC ebook record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2021037869>

ISBN 978-1-108-47760-4 Hardback

ISBN 978-1-108-72577-4 Paperback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.