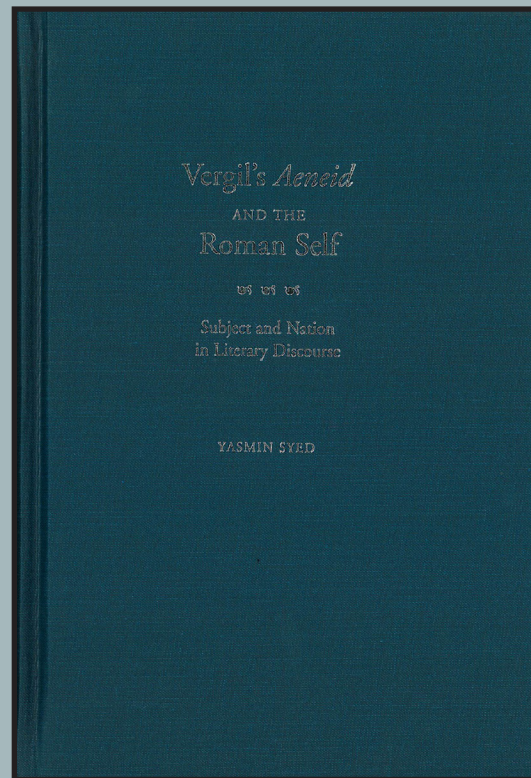


Vergil's Aeneid and the Roman Self

Subject and Nation in Literary Discourse

As the most widely read Roman poem in antiquity, the *Aeneid* was indelibly burned into the memories of generations of Roman school children. In her new book, Yasmin Syed analyzes the formative influence the poem exerted on its broad audience of educated Romans. Syed analyzes Roman pedagogy and reading practices as well as ancient beliefs about the powerful influence of poetry. Her study considers these cultural components together with the aspects of identity that define the *Aeneid*'s characters. By doing so, Syed shows how Vergil's ancient audiences saw themselves—their experiences, goals, and values—reflected in the poem and guided by it. In particular, Syed's treatment of gender and ethnicity brings to light the key role of Vergil's poem in the formation of Romanity.

Yasmin Syed is Visiting Assistant Professor of Classics at the University of California, Berkeley.



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