

Name

Poulheria Kyriakou
Associate Professor of Greek

Address

Department of Classics
School of Philosophy
Faculty of Letters
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
Thessaloniki 54124
Greece
Tel. ++30 2310 998876
Fax ++ 30 2310 997009

e-mail pbkyriak@lit.auth.gr

Title of the paper

The road to Pyrrhonism

Language

English

Abstract

The paper examines the philosophical development of Pyrrhonists. It has been recently suggested that developing Pyrrhonists turn into mature skeptics by rejecting the validity of the tropes of Aenesidemus and Agrippa, which they had earlier found compelling. It is more probable that, in Sextus' view, their journey is guided by their education or work in the sciences, not only medicine but also, and perhaps most importantly, astronomy. This is the only science of Greco-Roman antiquity that both achieved considerable predictive success already in the second century BC and was pervaded by self-skepticism. The fact that the only predictively successful science of the time exhibits such epistemic humility boosted the case for robust skepticism about all claims to what may be called after Sextus dogmatic knowledge.