AZADEH ACHBARI
RULERS OF THE WINDS
How academics came to dominate the science of the weather, 1820-1870

This is a study of how meteorology developed into a well-defined and widely acknowledged branch of science in the period between 1820 and 1870. Meteorology was shaped by a complex of competition and conflict between rival academic and political patrons who each had different visions of the science and the role it should play. In this context, the meteorological community, established during the Napoleonic era, was developing. The geographic and political context of this period of history is emphasized, and it is argued that meteorological research was guided by institutional patrons, not by the science itself. The development of this network of meteorological observation stations, and the integration of meteorological research into international scientific communities, was critical to the establishment of meteorology as a discipline. The book offers a fresh perspective on the history of meteorology, by situating it within the broader context of the intellectual and political milieu of the period.