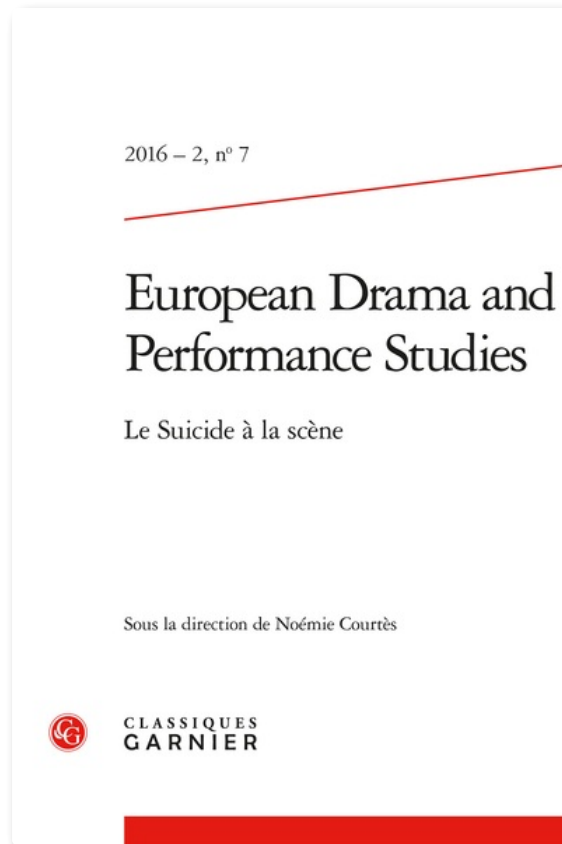




Suicide justified

Corneille's *Sophonisbe*

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Author: Harris (Joseph)

Abstract: Although Corneille typically lets his heroes survive, distributing suicides amongst problematic secondary characters with little respect for his sources, the noble, historical death of the Carthaginian queen in *Sophonisbe* (1663) poses ethical, emotional and dramatic problems for Corneille as both dramatist and theoretician. This article reads Corneille's play alongside various intertexts: his own works, Livy's history, d'Aubignac's critical dissertation and Mairet's original *Sophonisbe*.

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