

## Intersections Vol. 12 Physical Pain in Early Modern Culture

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**INTERSECTIONS. Yearbook for Early Modern Studies** brings together new material on well considered themes within the wide area of Early Modern Studies. Contributions may come from any of the disciplines within the humanities: history, art history, literary history, book history, church history, social history, history of the humanities, of the theatre, of cultural life and institutions. The themes are directed towards hitherto little explored areas or reflect a lively debate within the international community of scholars.

### **Call for Papers for Volume 12: Physical Pain in Early Modern Culture**

The experience of pain, far from being a purely bodily sensation, is powerfully mediated by cultural belief systems. The early modern period is one of most important eras in the history of pain in Western Europe. For example, the origins of modern Western attitudes towards pain as meaningless are partly to be found in the Reformation era, when Protestant theologians attempted to redefine and circumscribe the spiritual meaning of physical suffering, and rejected late medieval assumptions about pain. In late medieval religious culture, physical suffering was seen as a way of participating in the Passion of Christ, or as a form of 'purgatorial suffering' that could contribute to salvation. Reformation theologians, by contrast, downplayed the theological significance of physical suffering, and saw Christ's self-sacrifice as a unique and complete event, from which humans were excluded. This often highly ambivalent and piecemeal transformation was only one among a range of developments within early modern notions of pain, whose roots frequently go back to the later medieval period.

This volume of essays will investigate these developments from a range of different angles, and from an international as well as interdisciplinary perspective. The editors welcome articles on theology, humanism (for example on the humanist interest in Stoicism), medicine (the impact of anatomy on conceptions of pain, or the growing separation between medical and theological notions of pain), print culture (the impact of the printed book on our understanding of the body), visual culture (representations of the Passion in early modern art) and literary texts (pain in devotional verse, or the role of pain in the

warrior ethos of epic poetry). This list is not exhaustive, and the editors are specifically interested in essays which investigate the interrelations between the various fields sketched here.

The volume will be edited by Jan Frans van Dijkhuizen and Karl Enenkel, and is scheduled to appear in 2008. The volume will be backed by a conference which will take place in October 2007. Proposals, about 300 words, should be sent (preferably electronically) no later than **December 1<sup>st</sup> 2006**, either to

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The authors of the proposals that have been accepted will be invited to write a paper and to participate in the conference before January 15<sup>th</sup> 2007.

Reference:

CFP: Intersections Vol. 12 Physical Pain in Early Modern Culture. In: ArtHist.net, Nov 4, 2006 (accessed May 30, 2026), <<https://arthist.net/archive/28743>>.