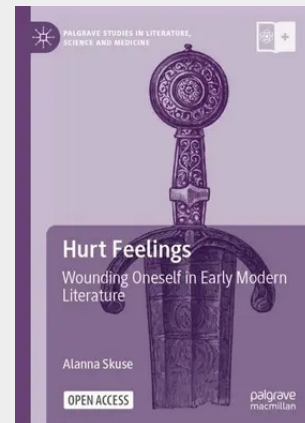


## Hurt Feelings

Wounding Oneself in Early Modern Literature

This open access book offers the first full study of the phenomenon of self-wounding as it is represented in early modern literature. It looks at depictions of self-injury in ballads, plays, medical texts and histories from the 1580s to the turn of the eighteenth century. In this period, it argues, self-injury was not necessarily viewed as indicative of psychological distress, as it is in modern discourses of 'self-harm'. Rather, self-wounding might work as a form of protest, a persuasive tactic, a means of self-regulation or an assertion of agency over one's own body. This book blends traditional literary studies methodologies with insights from sociology, emotion studies, cognitive psychology and practice-led research to shed new light on early modern ideas about rhetoric, authenticity, emotion, and the relationship between body and identity. The book also confronts the difficulties of examining such 'topical' phenomena. Can the anachronism of comparisons between modern and historical self-injury be made productive, rather than reductive? What does it mean to talk about 'self-injury' in a period which did not have a distinct word for these practices? In so doing, it suggests new directions for literary-historical studies of the body and its practices, arguing that in such cases, we should seek not to familiarise the past but to defamiliarize the present.

1 Introduction.- 2. Persuasion: Self-Wounding as 'strong proof' in Julius Caesar and Tamburlaine the Great.-3. Protest: Autoglossotomy and Biopolitics in The Spanish Tragedy.- 4. Violent Lament in The Faerie Queen and Various Plays and Poems by Shakespeare.- 5. Self-Wounding in Medical and Historical Texts.- 6. Self-Determination and Self-Annihilation.- 7. Early Modern Narratives and the Present Day.



**53,49 €**

49,99 € (zzgl. MwSt.)

Lieferfrist: bis zu 10 Tage

**Artikelnummer:** 9783032045645

**Medium:** Buch

**ISBN:** 978-3-032-04564-5

**Verlag:** Birkhäuser

**Erscheinungstermin:** 01.12.2025

**Sprache(n):** Englisch

**Auflage:** Erscheinungsjahr 2025

**Serie:** Palgrave Studies in Literature, Science and Medicine

**Produktform:** Gebunden

**Gewicht:** 451 g

**Seiten:** 246

**Format (B x H):** 153 x 216 mm

