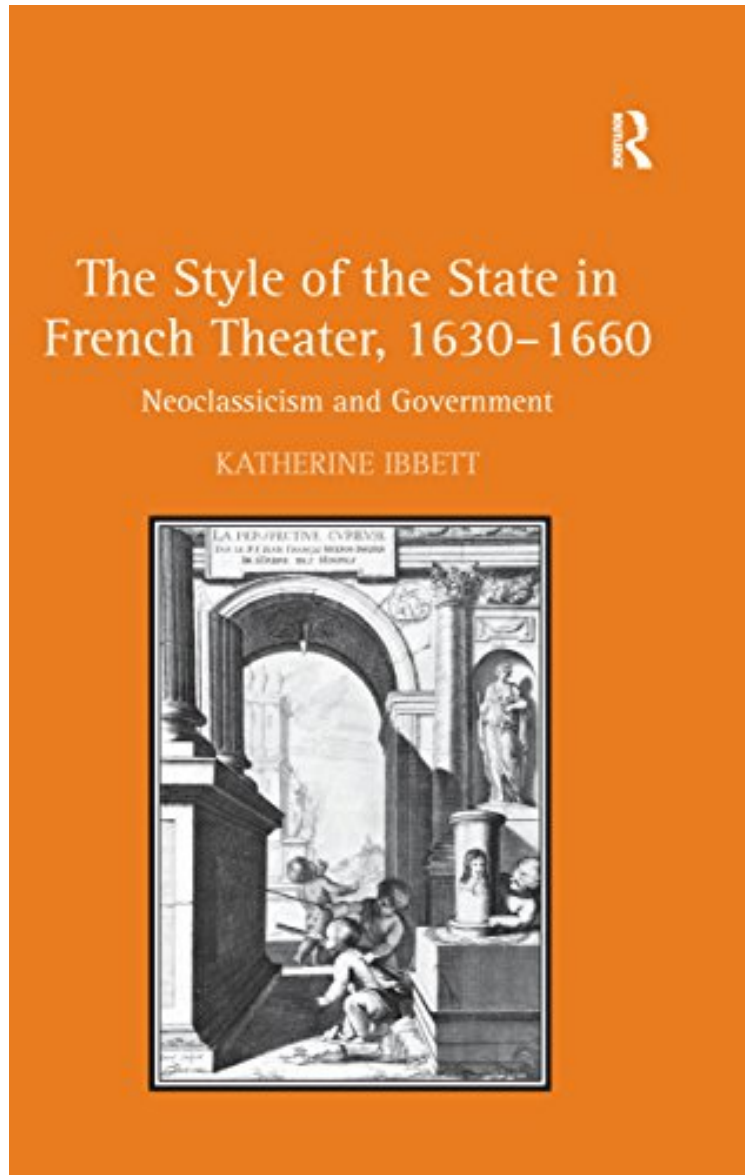


The Style of the State in French Theater, 1630ndash;1660: Neoclassicism and Government

Katherine Ibbett

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Katherine Ibbett : The Style of the State in French Theater, 1630ndash;1660: Neoclassicism and Government before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Style of the State in French Theater, 1630ndash;1660: Neoclassicism and Government:

Engaging with recent thinking about performance, political theory and canon formation, this study addresses the significance of the formal changes in seventeenth-century French theater. Each chapter takes up a particularity of seventeenth-century theatrical style and staging—for example, the clearing of violence from the stage—and shows how the conceptualization of these French stylistic shifts appropriates a rich body of Italian political writing on questions of action, temporality, and law. The theater's appropriation of political concerns and vocabularies, the author argues, proffers an astute reflection on the practices of government that draws attention to questions obscured in reason of state, such as the instrumentalization of women's bodies. In a new reading of tragedies about government, the author shows how the canonical figure of Pierre Corneille is formally engaged with the political strategizing he often appears to repudiate, and in so doing challenges a literary history that has read neoclassicism largely as a display of pure French style.

About the Author Katherine Ibbett, Lecturer, University College London, UK