

Seminar

Shakespeare: A Workshop and a Seminar on Boundary-Crossing Issues

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A paired Workshop and Seminar for the 2019 ESRA Conference in Rome.

The first element, a Workshop on translation in relation to Shakespeare, extends from Dr. Saenger's workshop at the 2017 ESRA conference in Gdansk, where Dr. Saenger recruited translators and Shakespeare scholars from various countries. Before the conference, all participants had the opportunity to refer to some key points in the theory of translation. In Gdansk, the participants all translated the same small scene into five different languages (in separate groups) and discussed the results and their theoretical implications, as one large group.

We propose to build on this successful innovation by expanding the activity to include an affiliated Seminar that is organized according to normal Seminar practice—core readings, papers circulated, etc.

The effect of the paired Workshop (scheduled to occur first) and Seminar (second) would be to be meaningfully inclusive of translators, theater scholars, practitioners and researchers in similar fields. The Workshop will remain focused on language, and for the Seminar, we take the idea of “translation” to encompass a variety of boundary-crossing issues, including Shakespeare's adaptation of his sources, his depiction of exile and linguistic exchange, the present practice of adapting Elizabethan theatre to a postmodern stage, the movement of Shakespeare across European boundaries, and the use of multi-ethnic casting that reflects and invokes the changing populations of the cities that surround European theatres, as well as the translation of Shakespeare per se. Papers will likely be grouped according to these sub-topics and then interconnections will emerge as topics for discussion in Rome.

Keywords: translation, international, adaptation, Shakespeare, modern