

Seminar

Shakespeare on the Intercultural Edge: Adaptation, Translation, Acculturation and Hybrid Strategies

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Different tensions related to a highly contested 'global' view associated with economical and cultural hegemonies in the world markets (Bharucha 2000) have allowed the intercultural practice to develop several strategies. Adaptation, translation, acculturation and hybridism appear not only as the foundation layers for a plural approach on Shakespeare but also as an open interface to its cross-cultural narratives. This seminar attempts to acknowledge the heterogeneous territories that mixed heritage Shakespeare constantly explore and negotiate between text and its context, while interacting with multiple loci of interpretation, performance dynamics and audiences.

Beyond an already exhausted opposition between 'domestic' and 'foreign', the Shakespeare we confront today has grown beyond the confines of any single language and territory. This seminar invites prospective contributors to consider the expansive possibilities of intercultural approach while tracing the conceptual framework underlying adaptation within its sphere of practice in contemporary performance, engaging and exploring the interweaving of conceptual threads and its critical reception.

As Antony Tatlow (2001: 5) writes, 'every engagement with a Shakespearian text is necessarily intercultural. The past really is another culture, its remoteness disguised by language can occasionally appear as familiar as we seem to ourselves, whom we understand so imperfectly'. This argument applies even more strongly when different perspectives are set in motion, such as geographical location, social environment and identity in response to the sheer diversity of approaches. Invoking Mieke Bal's notion of 'travelling concepts' (2009), Kamilla Elliott invites the scrutiny of 'conceptual threads across disciplines' (2013) in practices of adaptation. This Seminar seeks specific cases on creative renewal and rediscovery of Shakespearian texts. Papers for the seminar can also focus on how intercultural readings can feature or discuss particular cultural contexts, theatrical traditions, geographies and translations.

Keywords: intercultural theatre, adaptation, translation, acculturation, hybridism