

S25. Shakespeare in Crisis

Seminar Leader: Alan Rosen (Bar-Ilan University)

How have times of crisis—e.g. World War II, London's plague epidemics of 1592-93, or Germany in the 1920s—affected performance, publishing, criticism, pedagogy or canonization of Shakespeare? The seminar will address how reference to Shakespeare has helped negotiate—to resolve, repress, magnify—crisis, and will examine what has made Shakespeare—his life, works, legacy—particularly attractive for this task. This approach will also consider how the focus on crisis complicates or enriches critical oppositions and categories, including those of text/context, page/stage, and issues of gender.

S26. Staging Intelligence

Seminar Leader: William H. Sherman (University of Maryland)

During the English Renaissance the association between the various meanings of "intelligence"—ingenuity, scholarly skills, and covert political action—became highly developed and deeply problematic. This set of connections marked both the texts and the careers of the period's playwrights, and I welcome papers exploring issues of intelligence in the works and lives of Shakespeare and his contemporaries (especially Marlowe, Jonson, and Webster). Possible topics include: the representation of spies on stage, the definition of Renaissance intelligence, its legacies, and the historiography of intelligence.

S27. Racial Cross-Dressing on the Renaissance Stage

Seminar Leader: Ian Smith (Lafayette College)

Increasingly, the representation of cultural others became a feature on the Renaissance stage. Racial cross-dressing raises fundamental questions about the theatrical, epistemological or ideological effects generated when white, male actors impersonate non-English subjects.

Cross-dressing, narrowly understood as boys impersonating women, is here revised to encourage a wider set of critical interventions. The seminar seeks to add to our current knowledge about how racial difference was actually staged in the Renaissance and welcomes contributions on race theory and performance history.

S28. Playreading in Early Modern England

Seminar Leader: Marta Straznicky (Queen's University, Kingston)

This seminar examines all aspects of playreading in early modern England. Topics might include: bibliography and history of the book (the book trade, the evolution of format for manuscript and printed plays, play collecting); cultural studies (literacy, spaces and habits of reading, marginalia and other evidence of reading practice, censorship of printed drama, the stakes of play publication); performance studies (the relationship between text and performance in history and theory); and editing (the theatricalization of text in editions of early modern plays, past and present).

S29. Gender, Politics, Nation in Early Modern England

Seminar Leaders: Mihoko Suzuki (University of Miami) and Rachel Trubowitz (University of New Hampshire)

This seminar seeks to interrogate the separation of private and public spheres, gendered feminine and masculine, by focusing on the interplay of gender, politics, and nation. How might the theories of Benedict Anderson (on imagined communities) and Jürgen Habermas (on the public sphere) be reconsidered to include gender as an important concern? Participants are invited to explore these and related questions in the works of Shakespeare and other early modern writers of literature and political thought, both male and female.

S30. Multiple-Text Plays: Reading, Editing, Marketing and Teaching

Seminar Leader: Ann Thompson (King's College London)

Recent editors and textual scholars have felt uneasy about the validity of traditional conflated texts of plays like King Lear, Hamlet, Othello and Richard III. Publishers have tried different solutions, but readers (especially students) may not want to tackle more than one text. This seminar invites contributions from readers, teachers, editors, textual scholars and publishers on the relevant debates, and on the issues involved in producing, marketing, teaching and reading multiple-text editions.

S31. Lesbianism in the Renaissance: Questions of Methodology and Purpose

Seminar Leader: Valerie Traub (University of Michigan)

In an effort to articulate a history and literary criticism of early modern female homoeroticism, scholarship has tended to emphasize the recovery of unknown texts or the interpretive acts involved in reading for alternative sexualities. This seminar proposes to build upon these important first steps by bringing into critical discussion the underlying purposes and methodologies involved in making female-female eroticism a field of study. Participants are invited to engage with specific hermeneutic and historiographic issues by advocating or theorizing interpretative practices currently animating the field.

S32. Richard II and Elizabethan Politics Reconsidered

Seminar Leader: Paul Yachnin (University of British Columbia)

In spite of the brief "anecdotal" preeminence of Richard II in early New Historicism, other plays have seemed to speak more directly to emerging interests in the politics of gender, race, sexuality, colonialism, the nation, the market, religion, etc. It is nevertheless perhaps time to revisit Richard II, especially given its unique textual and performance history and rich political content. Papers are welcome that develop the connections between Richard II and Elizabethan politics as they have come to be understood over the past twenty years.

Registrants for the 2002 Meeting are also encouraged to submit papers in the Annual Open Competition. Each year, one paper session is held open for the winners of this competition. For further details, see page 12.