MEMOs

Medieval and Early Modern Orients

New Encounters

December 11-14, 2025

Cape Town, South Africa

and Online (via Zoom)

Conference Programme

Day 1, 11 December, Tafel at the Homecoming Centre, and Online – p. 2

Day 2, 12 December, Tafel at the Homecoming Centre, and Online – p. 4

Day 3, Upper Campus, 116 AC Jordan, University of Cape Town, and Online – p. 6

Day 4, Islamia College, Lansdowne, and Online – p. 8

All times are in Standard South African Time (SAST)

NRF

University of Cape Town · iYunivesithi yaseKapa · Universiteit van Kaapstad

Educasions Theatre Company

Making Learning an Occasion

SHAKESPEARE SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

University of the Witwatersrand Johannesburg | SLLM School of Literature Language and Media

The Tsikinya-Chaka Centre

Shakespeare | Transnationalism | Multilingualism

Thursday - 11th December, Homecoming Centre

8:00 - 9.00am

Conference Registration and Refreshments

9:00 - 9:15 am

Welcome

9:15 - 10:30am

Keynote Address - 'Entertaining Asia in *Midsummer Night's Dream*'

Prof Su Fang Ng (Virginia Tech)

10:40 - 11:30am

Panel 1 - Environmental Encounters: Creating and Disrupting Difference

Alya Hussain (Independent), Ecophobia, Environmental Toxicity, and the Migrant 'Other' in Shakespeare's *Othello* and *The Tempest*

Dr Frances Ringwood (University of Zululand), Visions of healing: tracing the influence of hallucinogenic substances from the Near-and Middle-East on Medieval dream narratives

11:45 am - 1:00 pm

Panel 2 - Colonial Logics in Premodern English Literature and its Afterlives

Dr Eduardo Ramos (Arizona State University), 'Richard I's territorial ambition in Robert Mannyng of Brune's *Chronicle*'

Dr Nora Galland (University of Bretagne Occidentale), 'Theatre of the Spectre: Haunting, Memory, and Trauma in Isabella Hammad's *Enter Ghost* and Shakespeare's *Hamlet*

Amelia Ali (Emory University), '"Blue Veins": Orientalism, Blackness, & the Geography of Shakespeare's Imperial Lovers'

1:00 - 1:45 pm

Lunch

1:45 - 3:00 pm

Panel 3 - Cross-cultural Texts: Circulation, Translation, and Reception

Dr Rhema Hokama (University of Washington), 'Protestantism in the Global Renaissance: How a late medieval Arabic tale came to colonial America and the Dutch Republic'

Prof Catherine Gaullier-Bougassas (University of Caen Normandie), 'European translations of Mubaššir's Maxims and Wise Sayings and appropriation of his memory of ancient Greece (13th-15th centuries): new encounters between 'East' and 'West"

Dr Lea Puljcan Juric (Fordham University), Bartol Đurđević's Turk in English Translation

3:15 - 4.30pm

Panel 4 - Patterns in Performance: The Ottomans on Stage

Dr Munire Zeyneb Maksudoglu (University of Sussex), 'Safe-conduct letters as the emblem of global order and sovereignty'

Dr Murat Öğütcü (Adıyaman University), 'Shakespeare's Contemporaries in Ottoman Türkiye'

Dr Philip Goldfarb Styrt (Ambrose University), 'The Ottomans as a Normal Empire in Christopher Marlowe'

4:45 - 5.45pm

Panel 5 - Religious Encounters: Shakespeare and Islam

Safaa Falah Hasan Alsaragna (Istanbul Gelisim University, Karabuk University),'Ibn Khaldun's Asabiyya and Cyclical History in the Rise and Fall of Powers: The Case in Shakespeare's *Macbeth'*

Dr Lubaaba Al-Azami (Queen Mary University of London) and Dr Salman Al-Azami (Liverpool Hope University), 'Seeking Sycorax: *The Tempest's* Islamic Ghosts from Shakespeare to Dhaka Theatre (2012)'

6:00 - 7pm

Plenary: Lyrical Encounters - Poetry Reading with Dr Gabeba Baderoon (Online) and Reception

Friday - 12th December, Homecoming Centre

8:30 - 9:00am

Tea and Coffee

9:00 - 10:15am

Panel 6 - Religious Intersections: Race, Gender, and Disability in Premodern Literary Narratives

Bárbara P A Lima (Independent), 'Imagined Encounters: The role of Muslim women in creating a cross-cultural *Chanson de Geste*'

Prof Catherine Anne Addison (University of Zululand), 'Islamic Women Characters in Ariosto's and Tasso's Epic Romances'

Prof Jonathan Hsy (George Washington University), 'Margery Kempe's Muslims: Race and Disability in Transit'

10:30 - 11:20am

Panel 7 - Dramatising Islam: Perspectives on Race, Gender, and Nation I

Dr Zainab Cheema (Florida Gulf Coast University), 'Englishing the Reconquista: Translating Iberian Islam in John Dryden's *The Conquest of Granada*'

Dr Iman Sheeha (Brunel University London), 'Shrewish Women and Emasculated Men: Percy's *Mahomet and his Heaven* and Early Modern Mythologies of Islam'

11:30 - 12:30 pm

Panel 8 - Dramatising Islam: Perspectives on Race, Gender, and Nation II

Soumaya Boughanmi (University of Tunis), 'Whiteness and Conversion in Philip Massinger's *The Renegado'*

Dr Emily Soon (Singapore Management University), 'Trading Faith: Re-shaping Malukan religion in John Fletcher's *The Island Princess* (ca. 1621)'

12:30 - 1:45 pm

Lunch

1:45 - 3:00 pm

Panel 9 - Turkish Islam in Print: Travel, Form, and Faith

Dr Thomas Matthew Vozar (University of Florida), 'Isaac Barrow on the Turkish Religion: A Latin Poem about Islam from Ottoman Istanbul'

Dr Ataberk Cetinkaya (Middle East Technical University), 'The Rhetorical Framing of Islam in George Sandys' *A Relation of a Journey begun An. Dom. 1610*'

Dr Gökhan Albayrak (Ankara University), Sema and Ney in the Diaries of John Covel: An English Clergyman's Fascination and Scepticism towards the Whirling Dervishes

3:15 - 4:30pm

Panel 10 - Dynasty and Dominion: Imperial Relations, Rule and Resistance

Prof George Sanikidze (Ilia State University), 'The Religious Policy of Shah Abbas I and his Successors Towards: Armenians and Georgians'

Georgine Watson (University of Manchester), 'New Political Landscape: The Florentine-Lebanese Mediterranean of the early seventeenth century'

Timur Khan (Universiteit Leiden), 'European understandings of the Afghans before British colonial rule'

4:30 - 5:30pm

Panel 11: Medieval Material: Muslim Texts and Objects in Europe

Dr Shazia Jagot (University of York), 'Astrolabe as archive and an archive of astrolabes: Chaucer's astrolabe and its Islamic affordances'

Nicolas McKelvie (New York University), 'Reading the Text of Islamic Textiles in Medieval Romance: The Materiality of Ambivalent Orientalism in "The King of Tars"'

5:45 - 7:00pm

Keynote Address

Prof Ambereen Dadabhoy, 'Turning Turk: the Image of Islam on the Early Modern Stage'

7.30pm

Conference Dinner (In-Person Only)

or

Watch Party of Khayaal Theatre Company's *Jesus Christ, A Muslim Nativity* (Online Only)

Saturday - 13th December, University of Cape Town

9:00 - 10:45am

Visit to Castle of Good Hope (In Person Only)

11:15am - 12:30pm

Panel 12 - Writing Routes: Early Modern Travel and Encounter Across Asia

Dr Unita Ahdifard (Kwantlen Polytechnic University),'"The Pleasure of Knowing Things Remote": William Daniel's Travels from England to Surat'

William Perry (University College Dublin), 'The Possibilities of Encounter: Travel and Space in Early Modern English Accounts of Isfahan'

Dr Nia Deliana (Universitas Islam Internasional Indonesia), 'Sailing through Multipolar Waters:

Archipelagic Actors in Forrest 1792 Account'

OR

11:15 am - 12:45 pm

Othello Workshop - *Play the Knave,* Virtual Shakespeare Game Demo and Teaching Workshop

Lauren Bates (Educasions)

12:45 - 2:00 pm

Panel 13 - The Premodern Now: Public Encounters

Dr Eva Momtaz (University of Birmingham), Eve Between Fiction and Faith: *Paradise Lost* in the Hands of the Modern Muslimah

Emma Sacco (University of Cape Town) and Thalén Rogers (Univeristy of Cape Town), 'Surviving Textualisation: Pedagogic Radicalisation in South Africa through *One Thousand and One Nights*'

Caroline Fleischauer (University of the Free State), 'Difference, Ignorance, and Teaching Beyond Dichotomy: Methods for Examining Islam as the "Dark Foil" to Christianity in "The Song of Roland"'

1:00 - 1:45 pm

Lunch

1:45 - 3:00pm

Panel 14 - Adapting Othello: Difference and Desire

Dr Önder Çakırtaş (Bingöl Universit), 'Matter and Meaning: Objects, Race, and Islam in Richard Twyman's *Othello*'

Dr Aisha Hussain (University of Salford), '"These moors are unchangeable in their wills" (Othello, I.iii): Reframing the Racialization of Islam and Muslims in Ola Ince's *Othello'* (2024)

Dr Hassana Moosa (University of Cape Town), 'Hiren the Fair Greek, *Othello*, and Racial Slavery on the Early Modern English Stage'

3:15 - 4:30pm

Panel 15 - Gender, Power and Cultural Representations of Royalty

Chandini Jaswal (Independent), 'Revisiting the Mughal Zenana— As It Was: Challenging the Narrative of the Space of the Mughal Harem by Analysing Visual and Material Culture'

Niyanta Sangal (University of Maryland), 'Tracing Gender Variance in Dryden's *Aurengzebe* and Mughal Art'

Kirsten Vitale Engel (University of Connecticut), 'Performing Monarchy through Magnificence'

4:30 pm - 5:15pm

Kahvehane/Coffeehouse: Open Session on New Projects and Work in Progress

6:00pm - 8pm

'Shakespeare to Gaza' - A South African Performance Response to the Gaza Monologues and Panel Discussion (In Person Only)

Ensemble Performance, in Collaboration with the UCT, Centre for Dance, Theatre and Performance Studies, and Local Artists and Theatre Practitioners

Sunday - 14th December, Islamia College

10:00am - 12:30pm

Breakfast and Brainstorm: Teaching Shakespeare with Inclusive Histories (In Person Only)

1:00 - 2:00pm

Muslims in Shakespeare's Worlds

Dr Lubaaba Al-Azami (Queen Mary University of London), and Prof Ambereen Dadabhoy (Harvey Mudd College) will be in conversation with Dr Hassana Moosa (University of Cape Town) at a public panel on Shakespeare-Muslim encounters

4:00 - 5:00pm

Closing Plenary - 'Marlowe's Muslim Journey in Tamburlaine - Reading the Islamicate World in Early Modern Drama' (Online)

Prof Jyotsna Singh (Michigan State University)

The full list of abstracts and bios is available on our conference website:

https://sites.google.com/view/memorientsconference/programme/keynote-speakers

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