

CALL FOR PAPERS
UGC SAP-DRS CONFERENCE ON
SHAKESPEARE AT 400: PRODUCING MODERNITY/MODERNITIES

15 November 2016

SAP-DRS PROJECT

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND FOREIGN LANGUAGES

TEZPUR UNIVERSITY

This one-day conference seeks to explore the relationship between Shakespeare and modernity as part of the SAP-DRS project. The fact that we do so to mark the quadricentennial—both academic and non-academic, literary-critical and performative, epistemological and ethical—celebrations of Shakespeare’s death points to the world’s relatedness, one of the most fundamental aspects of modernity as generally seen. But there is a problem when the relatedness of people and cultures—more specifically economies—is seen in terms of an Enlightenment trajectory, leaving out sites and scenes of modernity that do not cohere. There are multiple histories not only of the origins of modernity but also of the reception and understanding of its role in society. We propose to examine how Shakespeare—author, corpus, man and institution—produces modernity and/or how Shakespeare may have been retrospectively produced by modernity. The questions that we ask include:

- Did Shakespeare anticipate and produce scenes and sites of modernity, including the modern state?
- Did Shakespeare participate in the productions of modernity?
- Did Shakespeare foresee the suppression of indigenous modernities centuries after his death and, therefore, dramatize conflicts that were ahead of their/his times?
- Was Shakespeare appropriated by the institutions of modernity, including the Western University?
- How does one link the rise of Shakespeare(s) and the idea that there are multiple modernities?
- How does such multi-spectral imaging affect how we look at Shakespeare today?
- How does one theorize the production and circulation of modernity vis-a-vis Shakespeare?

We welcome papers on these aspects of Shakespeare and modernity, including, but not necessarily restricted to the following sub-themes:

1. Shakespeare and Surveillance
2. Shakespeare and Institutions of Modernity
3. Shakespeare and Democracy
4. Shakespeare and Sexuality
5. Shakespeare and Apparatuses of Resistance
6. Race and Religion in Shakespeare
6. Humans and Animals in Shakespeare

Key-note Speaker: Prof. Imtiaz Habib, Professor of English at Old Dominion University, Norfolk, Virginia (US), will give the keynote address. Professor Habib's books include *Shakespeare and Race: Postcolonial Praxis in the Early Modern Period* (1999), and *Black Lives in the English Archives, 1500-1677: Imprints of the Invisible* (2007).

Only participants with papers will be allowed to register. Interested participants are requested to send their abstracts by **5th November, 2016**. Abstracts of not more than 300 words should be emailed, preferably as attachment, with the subject line 'Abstract for SAP-DRS Conference, 15 November, 2016' along with the following details:

Name:

Institutional Affiliation:

Email and Telephone No.:

Title of the abstract:

Acceptance of abstracts will be notified latest by **8th November, 2016**. Full papers (Latest MLA Style, 5000—8000 words, presentable within 15 minutes) should be submitted by **12th November, 2016** in soft copy. Selected papers will be published in a volume. All participants are required to submit one hard copy at the time of presentation. Abstracts and full papers may be emailed to the following email id: reitazi@gmail.com or bhuyanrakti@gmail.com.

Selected participants will have to pay a registration amount of INR 500 that takes care of the conference kit, tea and snacks, as well as working lunch. Accommodation, if required, will be arranged at the University Guest House on request, depending on availability.

The Department of EFL: The Department, which was established in 1994, aims to provide instruction and carry out research in English Literature, New Literatures in English, American Literature, Indian Writing in English, Women's Writing in English, English Language Teaching, Linguistics, Language Technology and Endangered Languages. Since 2009, the Department has been receiving assistance under the SAP-DRS project of the UGC (now into phase II) for carrying out research in (i) Colonial and Alternative Modernities in Life Writing and Travel Writing and (ii) Modern Assamese: Indigenous and Asian Influences.

Tezpur is well connected by rail and road. There are 3 weekly flights from Kolkata. It takes about four hours from Guwahati by bus. Tezpur is situated in a moderate climatic zone and November is usually pleasant.

The Department website may be checked for updates.

For any query, please contact:

Convenors: Reetamoni Narzary, Assistant Professor (9435027007)

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