

WORLD SHAKESPEARE CONGRESS 2016, seminar: *Sh and Central / Eastern Europe*

August 5, 2016

3:45 pm - 5:15 pm King's College London

Sh and Central / Eastern Europe: Then and Now

Convenors: Michelle Assay (Université de Paris Sorbonne, France), David Fanning (University of Manchester, UK)

This seminar will study Shakespeare's appropriation in Eastern and Central Europe, including those countries comprising the former USSR. On the basis of an interdisciplinary approach embracing historical and literary criticism, translation studies, performance analysis, and cultural politics, the seminar will address such questions as: what were/are the mechanisms of appropriation of Shakespeare within different cultural contexts in this region; how has the process of appropriation contributed to definitions of national identity; is there such a thing as a specifically Central/Eastern European "Shakespeareology"? The seminar welcomes all disciplinary approaches to the question of appropriation, as well as discussion regarding the fate of Shakespeare's texts and performances against relevant political and cultural backdrops. The year 2016 marks 25 years since the dissolution of the Soviet Union, aligning the subject matter neatly with the notion of "presentism": a recurring theme of the highly successful seminar, co-ordinated by ourselves, that brought together Central/Eastern European Shakespeare scholars for the first time in Paris (April 2014).

Sh and Central /Eastern Europe: Then and now

Author	Title/topic	Respondents
Assay	What did Hamlet (Not) Do to Offend Stalin?	Gaydin, Semenenko
Bečanović-Nikolić	Shakespeare in Serbia	Gaydin, Wild
Brevik	Presentist Formalism	Bečanović-Nikolić, Cinpoes
Cinpoes	Hamlet from the Bloc: 1990 and 2010	Brevik, Heine
Gaydin	Shakespeare in Contemporary Russian Culture	Morgan, Wicher
Heine	Shostakovich's music for Kozintsev's <i>King Lear</i>	Assay, Khomenko
Khomenko	<i>Romeo and Juliet</i>	Assay, Morgan
Kozintsev	G. Kozintsev's Shakespeare Films	Bartoshevich, Bečanović-Nikolić, Heine
Misterova	Eduard Vojan's Hamlet on the first Czech Stage	Wild, Cinpoes
Morgan	Post-Soviet <i>Hamlets</i>	Semenenko, Wicher
Radlov	Osia Soroka's Translations	Bartoshevich, Wicher
Semenenko	The 'Realist' Translation	Heine, Khomenko
Wicher	Wyspiański's Sense of History	Misterova, Sokolova
Wild	Will's Wit Lost and Won	Misterova, Sokolova

Each of you should therefore be prepared to respond to two papers. As you will appreciate, giving everyone their personal choices wasn't possible, but we've tried to accommodate as many preferences as we could.

Three authors will be absent, namely Brevik, Kozintsev and Radlov (Brevik has to leave the conference before it transfers to London). Bartoshevich, also unable to join us, will be adding a written contribution, which we will post sometime between now and the conference, and to which Michelle and I will respond; as you'll see, he has also kindly agreed to respond to the papers of Kozintsev and Radlov.

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Respondents: Please don't think that your knowing little (or nothing) about the area of a paper allocated to you is a problem. The respondent's role is not to display wisdom or oratorical brilliance. Nor is it – by contrast with many conferences – confined to that of an expert with a sharply alternative point of view from the main author. Rather, it's first and foremost to be a conversation starter. You may, for instance, find that something in your allocated paper(s) connects with your own field of knowledge, in which case that would definitely be worth saying, provided it leads into a question that the paper's author can pick up and develop into something interesting for the group as a whole. Responses should be short and to the point – closer to a paragraph than a page. They should not be confrontational, and certainly not pedantic, though of course it's valuable for authors if errors can be pointed out. You may want to contact your co-respondent to determine who wants to speak first - and indeed to check that the points you want to raise aren't identical!

Authors: It would be helpful when answering your respondent(s) if you give some reminder of the content of your paper. To include thoughts along the lines of: 'as I argued/mentioned in my paper', or 'as I've argued/mentioned in my book/article/paper on', would be fine. And of course if you want to point out overlaps with matters raised in other papers in the seminar, that's also desirable.

It's my role as Chair of the session to ensure that each paper is discussed, in some kind of logical order. I'll do my best to be inclusive, and my idea is at some point in the second half of the session to throw the conversation open, if time allows, and perhaps to prompt debate with questions of my own.

Please be sure to have read all the papers before the seminar itself. They're all available via the Google Groups page. You may find it useful to bring print-outs or to have the papers available on your laptop.

Michelle and I look forward to renewing acquaintances and making new ones. Above all, we trust that you will all go away from our seminar, and indeed from the conference as a whole, feeling inspired and edified.

With best wishes

David (Fanning)

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