

CALL FOR PAPERS

Women and Indian Shakespeares: Exploring cinema, translation, performance

30 October – 1 November 2019
Queen's University, Belfast, UK

Indian Shakespeares is an established field of study, but no international conference has yet centralised the issue of the female in Indian Shakespeares. Recent feminist works include the retelling of *King Lear* in Sangeeta Datta's film *Life Goes On* (2010) or in Preti Taneja's novel *We That Are Young* (2017), *Romeo and Juliet* in *Arshinagar* (dir. Aparna Sen) or Bornila Chatterjee's 2016 film adaptation of *Titus Andronicus*, *The Hungry*. Indeed, it has been argued that the women in Vishal Bhardwaj's celebrated hero-centric film trilogy possess transformative agency. Such works have continued to reshape the debate surrounding the role of women in Shakespeare.

This conference thus emerges in the context of these retellings and recent historical events in India and worldwide. It aims to explore uncharted territory, bringing together researchers and practitioners to establish the state of current scholarship in this vibrant, underexamined field.

We invite proposals for 20-minute papers, panels, workshops and creative approaches on any aspect of Women and Indian Shakespeares. Alternative presentations are also equally welcome, such as film shorts, film scripts, etc.

Contributions are invited on any of the following aspects of the topic:

- * Depictions of women in Indian Shakespeares on screen or on stage
- * Indian female practitioners of Shakespeare
- * Female Indian diasporic practitioners of Shakespeare
- * Examinations of cross-dressed women
- * Examinations of cross-gendered casting
- * Transgender women in Indian Shakespeares
- * LGBTQ Indian Shakespeares
- * Feminist theory and intersectionality in relation to Indian Shakespeares
- * Issues of caste in relation to women and Indian Shakespeares
- * Regional perspectives and representations of women
- * Challenges of researching Women and Indian Shakespeares

200-300 word abstracts for conference presentations should be sent by **the revised date of 30 April 2019**. Together with the abstract, participants are invited to send a **brief (100 words) bio** stating their affiliation, research interests and relevant academic output. Four bursaries of £150 will be made available to presenters who participate in all days of the conference — these are intended to help cover accommodation and travel expenses. To be considered, please include a brief paragraph in your application or email about how this conference will help your research.

Decisions will be made by **1 June 2019**. If accepted, abstracts will be circulated among conference participants in advance of the event. Auditors are also welcome to attend, but priority will be given to those presenting.

Confirmed speakers include:

Prof. Paromita Chakravarti (Jadavpur University)

Ms. Bornila Chatterjee (filmmaker, *The Hungry*)

Ms. Sangeeta Datta (filmmaker, *Life Goes On*)

Ms. Annette Leday (actor and director, *Kathakali-King Lear*)

Dr. Sreedevi Nair (NSS College for Women)

Prof. Jyotsna Singh (Michigan State University)

Dr. Poonam Trivedi (formerly Delhi University)

Both abstracts and bios should be sent in Word or PDF format to the following address:
indianshakespeares@gmail.com

Organising Committee (Queen's University, Belfast):

Dr. Thea Buckley, Leverhulme Early Career Research Fellow (co-chair)

Dr. Rosa García Periago, Marie Curie Research Fellow (co-chair)

Prof. Mark Thornton Burnett (consultant)

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W: <http://go.qub.ac.uk/womenandindianshakespeares>