



OHIO VALLEY SHAKESPEARE CONFERENCE OWENS COLLEGE, TOLEDO

OCTOBER 16-18, 2025 SHAKESPEARE FOR OUR TIME

DAY 1: THURSDAY October 16

All sessions will be in the Performing Arts Center
East Side of Campus

DAY 2: FRIDAY October 17

All Friday Sessions to be held in College Hall near the Library
West Side of Campus

DAY 3: SATURDAY October 18

All Saturday Session to be held at Heritage Hall
Southwest Side of Campus

SCAN TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR 2025 PLENARY SPEAKERS

Professor Sandra Logan,
Michigan State University



Professor Mira 'Assaf,
Butler University



DAY 1: THURSDAY October 16

**All events will be in the
Performing Arts Center
East Side of Campus**

9:30 a.m.

Registration and Coffee

10:00 am-12:30 pm

Beauty Justice and Comedy

Chair: Sandra Logan

PAC 133

Amber Boetger, “Transcendent Beauty: Interactions Between the Beautiful and Justice in Shakespeare’s *Othello*”

Godfred Ogoe, The Ohio State University, “Arguing in Support of the Theory of a Conflation: Shakespeare, The Performing Arts and the Creative Writers’ Industry”

Bob Pierce, Oberlin University. “Comedy, Formula, and Display: Shakespeare’s Marlovian Imitation in Shylock”

**Break for Lunch
Included on Campus in PAC**

Guided Writing Retreat Session 1

2:00-3:45 pm

Facilitator: Carol Mejia LaPerle

PAC 138

We’re excited to introduce the **Guided Writing Retreat** at this year’s Ohio Valley Shakespeare Conference. Recognizing that many institutions don’t provide support for writing retreats, this new feature creates a welcoming space for sustained writing time, collegial exchange, and informal networking.

Afternoon Paper Sessions

2:00-4:00pm

Undergraduate Panel

Chair: Hillary Nunn

PAC 133

Rachel Ciotti, John Carroll University—*Tempest*, misogyny, critique of James I

Julia Ritzler, Bowling Green State University, “Teaching *Twelfth Night* through a Queer Lens in a High School Setting.”

Lukas Warner, University of Michigan - Flint, “Reflections in the New Generation”

Shakespeare, Ambiguity, and Appearances

Chair: Diana Rice

PAC 130

Laura DeLuca, Carnegie Mellon University, “Hermeneutics of Race and Exemplarity: Cleopatra Drama and the Resolution of Ambiguous Evidence in Early Modern Thought”

John Jordan, Bowling Green State University, “Damned for Cozening the Devil: Shakespeare, Consequentialism, and Contemporary Political Discourse”

Ouarda Larbi Youcef, University of Abd el Hamid Ibn Badis, “Othello Through the Lens of Foucault’s Parrhesia”

Guided Writing Retreat Session 2

4:00-5:30 pm

Facilitator: Carol Mejia LaPerle

PAC 138

DAY 2: FRIDAY October 17
All Friday Sessions to be held in
College Hall near the Library on the
West Side of Campus

8:00-9:00

Registration/Check In/Coffee at Hallway outside of Library

Guided Writing Retreat Session 3
9:00-10:45 pm
Facilitator: Carol Mejia LaPerle
CH 100

9:00-10:20

Adaptation and Feminist Critique

Chair: Lisa Starks

CH 160

Zoya Khan, University of South Florida, “Reassessing Dolly: The Disruptive Power of Female Agency in Vishal Bhardwaj’s *Omkara*”

Elizabeth Zeman Kolkovich, The Ohio State University, “Remixing the Masque: Feminist Critique in Hodge and Khalil’s *Henry VIII* (2022)”

Hanna Elyse Thompson, Wright State University, “Paulina as Feminine Power: The Representation of Paulina in the 2025 Stratford Festival Production of *The Winter’s Tale*”

Shakespeare in the Trump Era

Chair: Savannah Xaver

CH 165

Joe Keener, Indiana University, “Mind of State: Thinking about Henry VIII, Trump, and Shakespeare”

Gabriel Rieger, Concord University, “‘The Ministry of Satan’: Shakespeare, Calvin, and Anti-Humanism”

Nathanial B. Smith, Central Michigan University, “The Nature of an Insurrection”

11:00-11:45**Plenary Speaker: Sandra Logan**

Chair: Russ Bodi

CH 100

“Shakespeare the Commoner: Commons, Commoning, and the Commonweal.”

Sandra Logan has been a longstanding friend of OVSC, having hosted an Ohio Shakespeare Conference in Michigan. Her early research includes the history and theory of drama (including Shakespeare), poetry and poetics, historiography, and women writers. More recently she has considered conjunctions between contemporary and early modern political theory in relation to Shakespeare's plays. Her books include *Text /Events in Early Modern England: Poetics of History* (Ashgate, 2007), and *Shakespeare's Foreign Queens: Drama, Politics, and the Enemy Within* (Palgrave, 2018). She is currently developing an invited monograph for Arden's 'Shakespeare and Theory' series entitled *Shakespeare and Political Theology*. OVSC is delighted to have Sandra back!

12:00-1:30**Lunch Break – Catered lunch****1:40-3:00****(Early) Modern Ecology**

Chair: Carol Mejia LaPerle

CH 165

Kirsten N. Mendoza, University of Dayton, “What the 16th and 17th Century Energy Crisis Can Tell Us about the Environment and the Common Good”

Daniel Normandin, Marshall University: “Shakespeare's Cedar Prophecies: The Roots of Empire in Jacobean Propaganda”

Sarah Van Veldhuizen, Wright State University, “Worth Her Words: On Beatrice, Violence, and the Nature of Complaint”

3:10-4:30**Shakespeare and Queer/Trans Identity**

Chair: Gabriel Rieger

CH 160

Allison Duque, University of South Florida, “‘I Think He Only Loves the World for Him’: Fanfiction and Queerness in Shakespeare’s *The Merchant of Venice*”

Fatima Sajjad, University of South Florida, “Cinematic Adaptations of *Twelfth Night* through a Trans Lens”

Lisa S. Starks, University of South Florida, “‘I’m neither one nor the other’: Ethnoracial-Religious Identities and Trans Experiences in *Yentl* as an Adaptation of *Twelfth Night*”

6:30 p.m.**Rehearsal Workshop of scenes from *Winter’s Tale***

Chair: Chloe Stevenson. CH 100

DAY 3: SATURDAY October 18**Heritage Hall****Southwest Side of Campus****Same Parking Lot as College Hall****8:00-9:00****Registration/Check In/ Coffee at Heritage Hall Solarium**

OVSC Board Meeting: “Communication” Room

9:00-10:20**Rewriting Shakespeare**

Chair: Heath Huber

HH 127

Stephannie S. Gearhart, Bowling Green State University, “‘The Land of Hope and Dreams’: Race, Immigration, and Labor in Barrie Keeffe’s *King* (1984)”

David Loehr, Bowling Green State University, “To Translate or Not to Translate?”

Gabrielle Christner, Wright State University, “The Complex Portrayal of Piracy in Early Modern Drama”

Pedagogy, Part I

Chair: Hillary Nunn

HH 123

Sydney Fay, Wright State University, “The Public Theater’s 2019 all-Black Production of *Much Ado About Nothing*”

Mark-Elliott Finley, University of South Florida, “Summer with Shakespeare”: Teaching Shakespeare with Comic Books and Performance Pedagogy at an Academic Summer Camp”

Savannah Xaver, Lorain County Community College, “‘I Want It That Way’: Shakespearean Adaptation as Contemporary Engagement”

10:30-11:55

Plenary Speaker: Mira Assaf

Chair: Carol Mejia LaPerle

HH 123

“Arab Cleopatra: Conviviality and Queerness at Cleopatra’s Court”

Dr. Assaf is Assistant Professor of English at Butler University and a Folger Shakespeare Library Long-Term fellow completing her first monograph, titled *Royal Marriage, Foreign Queens, and Constructions of Race in Early Modern England*. Her public humanities essays have appeared in several online publications, including *Shakespeare Globe*, *The Sundial*, *The Millions*, *Overland Journal*, *The Rambling*, *The Conversation*, *Medium-Equity*, and *The Platform*.

Her work has been supported by generous grants and fellowship from The Folger Shakespeare Library, The Shakespeare Association of America, The Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies (ACMRS), The Renaissance Society of America, The Women’s Place at The Ohio State University; The Muslim Studies Endowment (Butler), and NEH/Frederic M. Ayres Fund (Butler).

12:00 – 1:20**Sex, Consent, and Misogyny**

Chair: Brynn Bodi

HH 123

Katie Croft, University of Cincinnati, “Shakespeare is Timeless.”

Diana Rice, Dawson College, “Shakespeare’s *Measure for Measure* and the Manosphere”

Hillary Nunn, University of Akron, “*Measure for Measure* and the Mindsets of Misogyny”

Shakespeare and Pedagogy, Part II

Chair: Heath Huber

HH 127

Emily Isaacson, Heidelberg University, “Memefying Shakespeare: Contemporary Fads and Anticipatory Sets for Teaching Gen Z and Gen Alpha”

Mary Jo Keitzman, University of Michigan-Flint, “The Call to Orthopraxy: Shakespeare and Gen Z”

Phillip Zapkin, Pennsylvania State University, “Teaching Falstaff After #MeToo: A Small, Unreliable Field Study of Student Reactions to *The Merry Wives of Windsor* after the #MeToo Movement”

Thank you for being part of the 48th Ohio Valley Shakespeare Conference

For inquiries about the *Selected Papers of the Ohio Valley Shakespeare Conference*, please contact Emily Isaacson (eisaacso@heidelberg.edu). Call for submissions will be forthcoming after the conference.

Special Thanks

Russ Bodi for all arrangements of the 2025 Conference

Joe Sullivan for his generous donation to the OVSC

Stephannie Gearhart for panel organization

Carol Mejia LaPerle for organizing the Guided Writing Retreat

Hillary Nunn for her leadership