

IASEMS



Italian Association
of Shakespearean and
Early Modern Studies

***Illustrating Shakespeare:
Explaining through Critical Practice, Textual Editing, and Illustrated Editions***

The Fourteenth IASEMS Conference
University of Venice “Ca’ Foscari”, 29-31 May 2024

The XIV Iasems Conference in Venice, Università “Ca’ Foscari”, 29-31 May 2024, will be devoted to the concept/practice of illustrating the Shakespearean canon, in the broadest sense of the word – helping to visualise, but also explaining and clarifying.

Some of the most extensively read Shakespeare editions of the last three centuries were illustrated. Illustrated editions, as Sillars (2009) has argued, do not just explore language and character: they redesign the plays within the visual vocabulary of their time. But “visual aids” are not the only means through which we make sense of Shakespeare’s plays: translation activities and editing techniques, as well as paratextual materials and glosses, also help ordinary readers and scholars to grasp and interpret Shakespeare’s meanings. “Illustrating Shakespeare” in fact looks at the way in which critical approaches along the ages have given us transient, changing and often lasting perspectives and interpretations of early modern drama.

This conference will help us think of ways of explaining and making Shakespeare relevant to larger student audiences as well as academic professionals.

We invite Iasems members to submit proposals dealing with, but by no means limited to, the following topics:

- Analysis of illustrated editions, from Rowe’s 1709 edition to contemporary illustrated editions for children; paintings of specific scenes, prints, book covers
- Analysis of illustrated translations of Shakespearean works
- Editing as illustration
- Paratext: prefaces, commentary, footnotes, glosses and their illustrative functions
- Unpacking language: semantic and pragmatic strategies in critical commentaries of Shakespeare
- Translation as a form of interpretation/illustration of Shakespearean works
- Textual strategies of simplification: paraphrase, adaptation, abridgement

- Discussions and/or reappraisal of critical approaches, analysis of seminal readings of the plays, study of influential Shakespearean critics through the centuries
- Analysis/Discussions of Shakespeare's verbal art
- How to "illustrate" Shakespeare to university students; approaching Shakespeare's languages; teaching resources and strategies
- Filling the void of the Folio: engravers, publishers, and booksellers
- Alternative voices and histories in Shakespeare's illustrated works

We welcome proposals for twenty-minute papers (maximum). Please send a 500-word abstract and 200-word curriculum vitae by **25 February 2024** to:

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