



“The art itself is nature”:
Shakespeare’s Nature | Art | Politics

ESRA Shakespeare
Conference 2021

3-6 June 2021
National and Kapodistrian
University of Athens
www.esra2021.gr

Keywords: digital Shakespeare, online Shakespeare resources, reception history, comparative studies, translation studies

Nature Methodized: Digital Shakespeare Across Europe

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The aim of the panel is to discuss the concept and scholarly usefulness of digital repositories of Shakespeare translations and other Shakespeare-related resources, documenting the ways the bard has been entering into national cultures across the continent. The panellists offer an overview of several ongoing digital projects, highlighting their content, editing policies, and research potential, and therefore showing how the natural variety of cultural processes can be captured and exposed in digital space.

Spurred by the developments in Translation Studies in recent decades, Shakespeare translations have been subject to intense scrutiny, revealing the interpretative instability of the originals as well as the fleeting preferences of the hosting culture. The proliferating studies have brought into light hundreds of Shakespeare (re)translations, adaptations, abridgements, imitations etc., extant in print and in manuscript, settled in national canons or stored in theatrical archives. Pulling together national resources reveals a wealth of new material, elucidating the hitherto neglected histories of the native culture. Yet, apart from an insight into the rewriting practices of previous ages, the repositories bear witness to the internal dynamics of the corpus with distinctive patterns of influence, imitation and denial, well-exceeding the apparently monolingual or monocultural lines of inquiry.

Additionally, the growth of Digital Humanities brought new possibilities as regards the construction and functionalities of on-line resources, creating comprehensive research environments for the identification of trends and idiosyncrasies in our response to Shakespeare oeuvre, particularly when Shakespeare canon becomes contextualized against a wider background of early modern theatre, or Shakespeare translations are scrutinized within the framework of the evolving target culture(s). The rapidly increasing reliance on online resources, poses also the chance (and threat) of epistemological shifts resulting from the transfer of libraries, archives and reshuffled hierarchies into an increasingly packed and (dis)organized digital space.

The panel is designed to be a continuation of the discussion offered at 2017 ESRA Conference and likewise focused on Shakespeare digital resources, and followed by a joint publication (*National e-resources of Shakespeare translations in Europe: (Dis)assembling the black box*. DOI: 10.1177/0184767819835567). The panel shall centre on three presentations:

Jesús Tronch (University of Valencia)

Digital Shakespeare among European contemporaries: texts and translations in the EMOTHE digital library.

Boris Gaydin (Moscow University for the Humanities), Vladimir Makarov (St. Tikhon’s Orthodox University in Moscow), Nikolay Zakharov (Moscow University for the Humanities)

Shakespeare and Marlowe and the Russian Internet: Some steps towards implementation of two projects.



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2021

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Anna Cetera-Włodarczyk (University of Warsaw) (panel leader)

The (almost) complete digital repository of Polish Shakespeare translations: challenges, methods, findings.

followed by a discussion of the methodology and practicalities of digital projects, possible ways of integrating digital resources, and their significance for Shakespeare Studies, within the national context and beyond.