



Shakespeare and the Nature of Utopia/Utopian Nature

Delilah Bermudez Brataas¹, Magdalena Cieślak²

¹Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway; ²University of Lodz, Poland

delilah.brataas@ntnu.no; magdalena.cieslak@uni.lodz.pl

This seminar seeks papers that investigate the nature and role of the utopian in Shakespeare's works and their adaptations. Whether that presence emerges as the influence of classical ideal spaces, the burgeoning potential of the new world as a utopia, or the political ideologies inspired by Thomas More's *Utopia* (1516) at the start of the early modern era, the utopian impulse appears throughout Shakespeare's plays and poems. However, its reception and understanding "lies in the interpretation of the time" (*Cor.*) – and the place.

This seminar will focus on the nature of utopia as a political project, taking into consideration the art of governance and the visions of the "natural" order of things within a state, asking what it means to rule "by sovereignty of nature" (*Cor.*), and how such visions on natural order/disorder of things have affected adaptations of Shakespeare's works in contemporary times.

Keywords: utopia, dystopia, ecotopia, sovereignty, violence