

Shakespeare and the Human

CFP for a special section of *The Shakespearean International Yearbook*

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A Special Issue of *The Shakespearean International Yearbook*

Edited by Tiffany Jo Werth

The guest editor of this special issue of *The Shakespearean International Yearbook* invites papers to think beyond “the human” as a distinct—and privileged—ontological category in Shakespeare. Stressing the need to revisit fundamental questions about the nature of matter and the place of embodied humans during a time of religious upheaval and emergent new philosophies, early modern scholars have contended that human indistinction shadowed the celebration of humanity’s preeminent place within the created universe. How does the variety of life forms and forms of life in Shakespeare’s work allow us to glimpse the complexity of “the human” in the context of theological, political, and cultural debates? How might humanist philosophy, new- and old-world investigations of the natural world along with their technologies, or other contemporary currents of thought and writing, collapse or uphold the limits that Shakespeare places on the definitions of “the human”?

The editor welcomes contributions in English that address the topic, focusing its scope by addressing one of the following early modern scales of being (perhaps as a criterion to facilitate a reading that swerves across such categories) in an effort to analyze its creaturely qualities, and its relationship to “the human” in Shakespeare’s works:

- God(s), Angels, Demons
- The Heavens, including Air, Flames, and the Waters
- Animals, Beasts, and Birds or Fowl
- Vegetables, Plants
- Matter, including Minerals, Soil, Earth, and Slime

Papers theorizing hierarchies, taxonomies, chains, ladders, scales, degrees or ontological categories (with consideration for their placements, energies, relationships etc) in Shakespeare, as well as papers interrogating how the performance of Shakespeare influences, inflects, or limits such categories, are also welcome.

Edited by Alex Huang (George Washington University) and Tom Bishop (University of Auckland), *The Shakespearean International Yearbook*

(<http://www.ashgate.com/Default.aspx?page=2875>) surveys the present state of Shakespeare studies, addressing issues that are fundamental to our interpretive encounter with Shakespeare’s work and his time, across the whole spectrum of his literary output. Each issue includes a special section under the guidance of a specialist Guest Editor.

Proposals or abstracts of c.500 words, a brief cv, and paper title should be emailed to Tiffany Jo Werth (twerth@sfu.ca) by 1 August 2013. Full articles (5k-8k) of accepted

abstracts will be expected by May 2014 to allow for peer review, revision, and publication in 2015.

CFP categories:

Renaissance

Reformation

Science and culture

Eco-criticism

Ecology

Theory

Cultural studies and historical approaches

Gender studies and sexuality

Interdisciplinary

Journals and collections of essays