

“Shakespeare and the Jews: A Global Exploration” - Call for Papers Special Issue *Shakespeare*

In 1992, James Shapiro discussed ‘Shakespeare and the Jews’ in the James Parkes Lecture at the University of Southampton, a lecture that would form one of the cornerstones of his ground-breaking book of the same title. Thirty years later, in 2022, the journal *Shakespeare* pays homage to his research, both by looking back and reflecting on the issues Shapiro raised, and by looking around us in today’s world where the topic is as relevant as ever. Shakespeare and the accusation of anti-Semitism have long been intertwined, with *The Merchant of Venice* being central in this discourse. Today, the evidence of rising anti-Semitism has become almost impossible to ignore. There is a growing sense of urgency, as an increase in incidents is reported across the world, while in Europe, the continent most directly confronted with the horrors of the Shoah, anti-Semitism is no longer an issue confined to extremist parties but seems to have entered the political and cultural mainstream.

This special issue of *Shakespeare* invites submissions that analyse the topic ‘Shakespeare and the Jews’ in local and/or global contexts and a wide spectrum of thematic, methodological and disciplinary approaches. We are interested in representing a broad geographical range, and invite essays from both academics and practitioners in Asia, Africa, Australia, Europe, and the Americas. While the topic is of obvious interest to Shakespeare scholars, we also encourage essays from other disciplines (or inter- and transdisciplinary essays), including Theatre Studies, Film Studies, Philosophy, Political and Historical Science, Ethics, Judaism, Middle Eastern Studies, Religious Studies and Anthropology.

Possible areas of interest include:

1. Dressing Jews: costuming in contemporary productions
2. Depicting Jews: representations in movie/performance posters, book covers or program notes
3. The ghetto in Shakespeare’s text and/or Shakespearean productions
4. Shakespeare, Jews and performance in the local (national or regional) context
5. Shakespeare and the Jews in amateur productions
6. Shakespeare, Jews and (de)constructing stereotypes
7. Shakespeare and the Jews in a multicultural society
8. Shakespeare, Jews and acting: movement and gestures on stage
9. Shakespeare’s Jews and religious encounters: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam
10. Shakespeare and anti-Semitism on/off stage: local, national or transnational perspectives
11. Shakespeare and the Jews: a political perspective
12. Shakespeare, Jews and propaganda
13. Shakespeare, Jews and props on stage
14. Jewish themes in Shakespeare’s plays
15. Representing Jews in Shakespeare translations
16. The reception and/or adaptation of Shakespeare in Jewish communities across the world
17. The reception and/or adaptation of Shakespeare’s Jews in Israel and neighbouring countries
18. Jewish directors/actors responding to Shakespeare
19. A view from the classroom: on teaching Shakespeare and the Jews
20. A view at the screen: Shakespeare and Jews in films and on tv
21. Audience responses to Shakespeare’s Jews
22. Shaming Shakespeare: bans and censorship
23. *The Merchant of Venice* and the conflict in the Middle East
24. Shakespeare, Jews and pogroms
25. Affecting change through Shakespeare’s Jews
26. Money(lending) and anti-Semitic myths
27. Shakespeare, ethics and Jews
28. Shakespeare’s Jews, Gender and Sexuality
29. The impact of modern appropriations and adaptations of *The Merchant of Venice*

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Afterword: James Shapiro

Lengths of submissions: 6,000 – 7,000

Deadline for abstracts: April 15, 2020

Deadline for submissions: January 15, 2021

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