

IASEMS



Italian Association  
of Shakespearean and  
Early Modern Studies

**Shakespeare and his Contemporaries  
The IASEMS Graduate Conference at the British Institute of Florence**

**Call for Papers**

**Re-signifying myths in early modern English  
literature, language and culture**

**Florence, 21 April 2023**

For Myth is at the Beginning of  
Literature, and also at its End.

Jorge Luis Borges, *Dreamtigers* (1960).

**Confirmed Keynote Speakers: PAOLA BASEOTTO (University of Insubria) and MICHAEL L. STAPLETON (Indiana University)**

The 2023 IASEMS Graduate Conference at The British Institute in Florence is a one-day interdisciplinary forum open to PhD students and researchers who have obtained their doctorate within the past 5 years.

Taking as its cue Francis Bacon's *De sapientia veterum* (1609), in which the classical past is re-interpreted and fruitfully connected to the present, this year's conference will focus specifically on the use of myth in **early modern texts and culture in the British isles**.

The conference will address the translation, adaptation and dissemination of myths; the different uses of myths in a variety of text-types, both literary and non-literary; the use of myth in both popular and élite contexts; the re-mediation and ideological re-purposing of myths.

We welcome papers adopting a variety of approaches to textual and non-textual sources. Considering that a number of scholarly contributions (Jauß 1971; Blumenberg 1985; Iyengar 2005; Carter 2011; Blair 2018; Butler and Bassler 2019; Raphael 2019; Boitani 2020; Mann 2021) have investigated the impact of myth on most genres and cultural expressions, the conference also aims to question how myths were revived and reinvented to shape new codes or to resist change.

Topics of interest include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Classical mythology and early modern social/political phenomena
- Myths and legends in “high” and “low” forms of literary/cultural production
- Textual and figurative representations of mythical figures
- Myth in early modern art: music, painting and sculpture
- Mythologies of colour and of race in the age of “new” geographical and scientific discoveries
- The use of myth in early modern travel writing
- The language of mythology in pre-scientific/scientific writing
- Myths reinforcing or resisting stereotypical gender role; patriarchal appropriations of myths
- Myths as obsolete literary devices: mocking myths and mythological figures in early modern popular culture
- The language of myth, myths about language

Candidates are invited to send a description of their proposed contribution according to the following guidelines:

- the candidate should provide name, institution, contact info, title and a short abstract of the proposed contribution (300 words for a maximum 20-minute paper), explaining the content and intended structure of the paper; please include both a short bibliography and a short biographical note;
- abstracts are to be submitted by **Sunday 8 January 2023** by email to [iolanda.plescica@uniroma1.it](mailto:iolanda.plescica@uniroma1.it) and [luca.baratta@unisi.it](mailto:luca.baratta@unisi.it);
- notification of acceptance will be sent by **Sunday 22 January 2023**;
- each finished contribution should not exceed 20 minutes and is to be presented in English (an exception will be made for Italian candidates of departments other than English, who can give their papers in Italian);
- participants will be asked to present a final draft of the paper ten days before the Conference.

Speakers who are IASEMS members can apply for a mini-grant to go towards travel expenses: ([http://www.iasems.org/?page\\_id=2](http://www.iasems.org/?page_id=2)).

For further information please contact Luca Baratta: ([luca.baratta@unisi.it](mailto:luca.baratta@unisi.it))