



Call for Submissions

12th World Shakespeare Congress

July 20 to 26, 2026

The Twelfth World Shakespeare Congress will be held from July 20th to 26th 2026, in Verona, Italy, a beautiful and historic city on the Adige River, a vital crossroads of ancient and early modern Europe, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and the setting for two of Shakespeare's plays.

The International Shakespeare Association now invites submissions of proposals of 500 words for **seminars, workshops, and panels** engaging some aspect of the congress theme, 'Planetary Shakespeares'. The Congress will foster discussion of the many ways in which Shakespeare may be conceived as 'planetary', reaching out to resonances with new cultural galaxies of enquiry, debate, and knowledge. It will bridge the Gutenberg print age with the flourishing of humanism and the era of the virtual and the post-human, raising questions about our own understandings of the humanities at a time of manifold crises. In addition, the Congress will provide the occasion for connecting Shakespearean studies and practices to new forms of social awareness and engagement, as well as of innovative takes on our sense of the real. It will offer several areas of debate, emphasising the relation between eco-concerns and the position of the human and post-humanity, in relation to the rise of technology, the digital and the virtual:

- **General**

The Congress welcomes proposals taking up any of the themes and approaches of interest to Shakespeareans today. In doing so, the Congress will invite us to rethink aesthetic, social, cultural and political categories beyond current Shakespearean views.

- **Eco-Shakespeare**

An already 'globalized' phenomenon, showing its adaptability and resilience, 'Shakespeare' is an ideal vehicle of exploration and dialogue, community and care care – a way of bringing diverse people together to face the eco-crisis, whether in the theatre, in the open, or in the classroom,

- **Reconfiguring 'Global' Shakespeare**

The 2026 Congress is an opportunity to put fresh critical pressure on the uses, both pro and con, of all the vocabularies of 'universality' in light of a plurality of coexisting 'Shakespeare universes' where canons and fanons (or fan canons) are not mutually exclusive.

- **Shakespeare Galaxies**

The myriad forms of past and contemporary Shakespeare remediations – from print, to the moving body, to the hybrid and virtual spaces of cyberart and cyborg theatre, etc. – encourage reflection on the evolving constellations of 'Shakespeare Galaxies'.

For more click [here](#).



Proposers are encouraged to interpret the congress theme widely, and to consider texts, performances, and appropriations of his work in a full range of media. Guidelines for proposing and typical formats for the three types of sessions are given below.

Proposals for workshops and seminars given at the Congress will normally be offered by at least two delegate co-leaders. In recognition of the international character of the conference, the committee strongly encourages proposals led by or involving participants from diverse national or regional backgrounds, languages, or cultural traditions. Proposers will understand that there will be more space for seminars than panels on the conference programme. No one person should submit more than one proposal or be part of more than one proposal.

Those submitting proposals should ensure that their membership of the ISA is current. See <https://internationalshakespeare.org.uk> or contact the ISA office at ISA@shakespeare.org.uk.

All proposals will be reviewed by members of the ISA Programme Committee. Enquiries about preparation of proposals may be directed to a member of the Programme Committee, listed below.

- Tom Bishop, University of Auckland: t.bishop@auckland.ac.nz
- Bi-qi Beatrice Lei, Shakespeare Association of America (Chair), biqilei@gmail.com
- Christopher Thurman, University of the Witwatersrand: christopher.thurman@wits.ac.za
- Nathalie Vienne-Guerrin, Université Paul-Valéry Montpellier 3: nathalie.vienne-guerrin@univ-montp3.fr

Submit proposals online at <https://www.wsc2026.org/>.

The deadline for submissions is **15 September 2024**.

Guidelines

- **PANELS** typically include three papers of approximately twenty minutes' presentation time each, and may be chaired by a fourth person, who need not be specified by the proposer(s). Proposals should address the conference's commitment to international diversity among the panelists.

Panel proposals should include:

1. The name(s) of the session organiser(s), with affiliation(s) as applicable and e-mail address(es).
2. The title of the proposed session.
3. A brief description (of 500 words) of the objectives of the proposed session, including a list of problems or questions that the session will seek to explore.

4. The names of each presenter or participant, with university affiliations as applicable, and e-mail addresses.
 5. The title for and a brief description (of 100 words) of each presentation or paper.
 6. Short biographical statements for the session organiser(s) and each presenter or participant.
- **SEMINARS** are convened by at least two organisers, from different national backgrounds, languages, or cultural traditions. The conveners set out the research agenda for a group of scholars who are assembled through an open-enrolment process. Each seminar member will normally contribute a written research paper of a specified length; advance work may also include assigned readings and other preparatory activities. At the conference, conveners guide the seminar discussion.

Seminar proposals should include:

1. The names of the seminar organisers, with affiliations as applicable and e-mail addresses.
 2. The title of the proposed seminar.
 3. A description (of 500 words) of the objectives of the proposed session, including a list of problems or questions that the session will seek to explore.
 4. Short biographical statements for the session organisers, including any previous relevant experience with seminar direction.
 5. An additional short summary of the research agenda or issues to be explored in the seminar (80-100 words), for the information of potential enrollees.
- **WORKSHOPS** are convened by at least two organisers, from different national backgrounds, languages, or cultural traditions. These sessions typically bring together a larger group of participants to explore an issue in performance, pedagogy, criticism, or creative work. Advance work may involve readings, viewings, online discussions, shared syllabi, performances, and pedagogical and practical exercises. At the conference, workshops tend to have a looser format than seminars.

Workshop proposals should include:

1. The names of the workshop organisers, with affiliations as applicable and e-mail addresses.
2. The title of the proposed workshop.
3. A description (of 500 words) of the objectives of the proposed session, including a list of problems or questions that the session will seek to explore, and the methods the workshop will pursue.
4. Short biographical statements for the session organisers, including any previous relevant experience with workshop direction.
5. An additional short summary of the research agenda or issues to be explored in the seminar (80-100 words), for the information of potential enrollees.