

## ESRA 2027 – Shakespeare and Form: ‘To set a form upon desired change’

27-30 July 2027  
Bangor University, Wales  
Pontio Arts Centre, Bangor, Wales

**\*\* CFP extended deadline until June 25<sup>th</sup> 2026 \*\***

ESRA 2027 will explore the question of ‘form’ from a variety of angles, bringing together scholar, practitioner, school and collegiate communities as well as the general public. Interest in the wide-reaching question of form with regard to Shakespeare has a long and very varied history which looks back to Henry Ruggles’ *The Plays of Shakespeare founded on literary forms* (1895) and beyond. In the twentieth century, we may think of key interventions, such as C. L. Barber’s *Shakespeare’s Festive Comedy. A Study in Dramatic Form and its Relations to Social Custom* (1959), William Toole’s *Shakespeare’s Problem Plays: Studies in Form and Meaning* (1966), Emrys Jones’ *Scenic Form in Shakespeare* (1971), Robert Weimann’s *Shakespeare and the Popular Tradition in the Theatre: Studies in the social dimension of dramatic form and function* (1978) and Leo Salinger’s *Dramatic Form in Shakespeare and the Jacobean* (1986), to name but a few. More recently, twenty-first-century examples abound, such as Douglas Bruster’s *Quoting Shakespeare. Form and Culture in Early Modern Drama* (2000), Lene B. Petersen’s *Shakespeare’s Errant texts: Textual Form and Linguistic Style* (2010), Ruth Nevo’s *Tragic Form in Shakespeare* (2015), Ralph Berry’s *Shakespeare’s Comedies. Explorations in Form* (2016) and Jonathan’s Sell’s *Shakespeare’s Sublime Ethos: Matter, Stage, Form* (2022). In all kinds of ways, the corpus of Shakespeare’s works urges us to think about form in a host of different contexts in research, practice, performance and pedagogy.

This ‘Shakespeare and Form’ conference honours ESRA’s foundational engagement with the place held by Shakespeare in European cultures, while also opening itself to a range of other approaches to the chosen theme. Potential lines of vision on this theme may thus include, but are not limited to, the following:

Shakespeare, Dimension and Format	Forming and Reforming Shakespeare
Shakespeare, Proportion, Deviancy	Shakespeare, Formulation and Report
Shakespeare, Kind and Genre	Shakespeare and Environment
Shakespeare, Form and Well-Being	Shakespeare, Mass and Framework
Shakespeare, Courtesy and Protocol	Shakespeare, Fineness, Delineation
Shakespeare, Representation and Design	Shakespeare, System, Usage, Routine
Shakespeare, Formation, Adaptation & Metamorphosis	

Shakespeare. [Im]propriety, [In]decency	Shakespeare, Assembly and Completion
Shakespeare, Ornament, Fragment	Shakespeare, Observation, Observance
Shakespeare, Process, Practice & Appropriation	Reformist Shakespeare
Shakespeare, Embodiment, Physicality	Shakespeare, Custom, Regulation
Shakespeare, Materiality and the External	[In]Formal Shakespeare
Shakespeare, Emblem and Image	Performative Shakespeare
Shakespeare, Notation, Measure, Music	Informative Shakespeare
Shakespeare, Space, Architecture	Shakespeare, Therapy, Treatment
Shakespeare and Perceiving	Shakespeare and Taste
Shakespeare, Frame and Mapping	Shakespeare and Reform
Shakespeare and Inter-relation	Virtuous Shakespeare
Shakespeare and Bureaucracy	Programming Shakespeare
Shakespeare and Contrivance, Co-ordination	Shakespeare and Technique
Shakespeare, Degree and Hierarchy	Shakespeare, Behaviour, Pose
Shakespeare, Version and Revision	Shakespeare, Object, Objectification
Shakespeare, Anthology, Biography	Speaking Shakespeare
Shakespeare. Integrity, Soundness	Criminal Shakespeare – ‘having form’

Members of ESRA are invited to propose a panel, roundtable or a seminar that they would be interested in convening. (NB: To become a member of ESRA, you just need to send a message to [europeshakespeare@gmail.com](mailto:europeshakespeare@gmail.com))

**\*\*\*ESRA 2027 is an in-person only event\*\*\***

**Panel proposals:** these should be conceived as a pre-organized event with 3-4 papers focusing on a subject related to ‘Shakespeare and Form’ in some manner. Proposals should be no longer than 350-400 words (stating topic, relevance, and approach). The proposal should be submitted by the panel convenor(s) with the names of the participants (no more than four speakers) and the name of a chair (who may be one of the panellists).

**Roundtable proposals:** these should be conceived as a pre-organized discussion event, focusing on a subject related to ‘Shakespeare and Form’ in some manner. Proposals should be no longer than 350-400 words (stating topic, relevance, and approach). The proposal should be submitted by the roundtable convenor(s) with the names of the participants (no more than four speakers) and the name of a chair (who may be one of the roundtable members).

**Seminar proposals:** these proposals are for thematic strands linked to ‘Shakespeare and Form’. Seminars are designed as a series of discussion sessions in which the selected participants share their research with each other in the group prior to the scheduled meeting in the conference programme. Each seminar proposal should be no more than 350-400 words and submitted by 2 or 3 potential convenors from different countries. To encourage and allow for a broader selection of seminars at the conference, we will accept only one

proposal by each ESRA member. Once the seminar list has been agreed by the conference organizers, there will be a CfP for seminar participants. For this extended deadline, all seminar proposals are welcome and possible areas of particular interest would include:

- Translation studies
- Film Studies
- Language
- Materiality
- the Classroom
- Publishing
- Nature
- Fantasy
- Political Activism
- Crime

Please send your proposals until **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2026** to the following email address: [esra2027@bangor.ac.uk](mailto:esra2027@bangor.ac.uk)

The conference organisers and the Board of ESRA will confirm their final choice of panels and seminars by **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2026**. All convenors will be personally informed of the choices made and the list of seminars will be made available on the ESRA and the Conference websites.

Should you have any questions, feel free to contact the organising team at the above email address ([esra2027@bangor.ac.uk](mailto:esra2027@bangor.ac.uk)).

**Important dates:**

Seminar, Panel & Roundtable proposal **extended** deadline: **25<sup>th</sup> June 2026**

Proposal acceptance notification: **3<sup>rd</sup> July 2026**

Call for Papers opening: **13<sup>th</sup> July 2026**

Early Bird registration opening: **12<sup>th</sup> October 2026**

Call for Papers deadline: **4<sup>th</sup> December 2026**

Call for Papers acceptance notification: **16<sup>th</sup> December 2026**

Early Bird registration expires: **2<sup>nd</sup> April 2027**