



**International Conference on “401 years after Shakespeare: Shifting Paradigms from the
Shakespearean Human to the Post-human”**

24th and 25th November 2017

**Organized by *The Heritage College* (Department of English) in collaboration with the
*Shakespeare Society of Eastern India***

Venue: The Heritage Campus

Concept Note:

As we step into the 401st anniversary of Shakespeare’s death, we ask ourselves how we might investigate the metamorphosis of the Renaissance human into the cybernetic post-human. Shakespearean heroes belong to the new cartography of the radicalized concept of the human, what we conventionally understand as Renaissance humanism. Renaissance perspectivism concerns the individual as truth-making consciousness where man is the centre of the universe. On the other hand, through the anxiety of extinction in the post-anthropocene challenge to human centrality, and in the realm of technology and ecological crisis, we share a bond over pan-vulnerability, and remain united on a negative plane (what Braidotti calls “being-in-this-together”).

In these four centuries the being of the human has undergone transformations from being the central, the abstract, the nothing, the peripheral and finally the relational. The representations of the human can be traced back to Renaissance literature, romanticism down to modernism; in the field of performing arts it moves from naturalism to pop art. This conference invites papers that broadly engage with Shakespeare’s

humans and the proliferating notions of the human from the Renaissance to our contemporary times: from humanism to post-humanism, and from drama, novels, short stories, graphic novels, digital literature to cyber culture. There have been different critical perspectives on the understanding of the human starting from early modern period down to the postmodern. It is significant to ask in our posthuman milieu where art positions the human in the gap/meeting point between the man facing extinction and the posthuman cybernetic body.

This National/ International conference intends to also focus on the changing texts and contexts, cultural and literary forms that have undergone numerous alterations across the globe and across the centuries, the formulations and the isms, the ideologies and the ideologue from the early modern period and Shakespeare's time to the emergence of the new, the newer, and the newest up to our present day period.

Possible topics might include:

- Shakespeare and films/ graphic novels/new media
- Shakespeare and translation/ folklore
- Alternative/Digital Shakespeares
- Human and the Renaissance
- Human in Music/ Dance/ Films
- Human in critical theories (gender theory, postcolonial theory, subaltern studies, formalism, post-structuralism, new historicism etc.)
- Rehabilitation of the human through arts
- Time and space in the Renaissance and after

- Environmental human
- Globalization versus regionalism across disciplines
- Translation: Theories and Praxis
- Modern and Postmodern adaptations and transformations of classical forms
- Gerontological perspectives (old age) in Global literature and Culture
- Myths and their Transformation across the Centuries
- The evolution of the Comics and the Graphic novel
- Texts, Contexts or Theory? The Purpose and Function of Classroom Teaching

An abstract of 400-500 words separately highlighting at least 5 key words must reach the organizers before 30 September 2017 as an email attachment to heritagesseiconference@gmail.com. A short bio of about 150 words must accompany the mailed proposal. The abstracts should be in MS-Word format with Times New Roman font, 12 point size, 1.5 line spacing.

Date for Notification of acceptance of abstract: 10/10/2017

Registration Fees:

Paper Presenters:

- a) Faculty: Rs. 1500
- b) Research Scholars: Rs. 1000
- c) UG/PG Scholars: Rs. 500

Non-paper Presenters:

- a) Faculty/Research Scholars/UG/PG students: Rs. 500 (Rs. 250 per day)

Conference Workshop

Theatre Workshop on Acting Shakespeare

Conducted by Professor Amitava Roy, Internationally renowned actor and director; Co-founder and president, Shakespeare Society of Eastern India

Date: 25th November, 2017 from 1 pm to 2 pm.

Venue: The Heritage College, Kolkata.

Registration fee: Rs. 200 for participants (to be paid to Shakespeare Society of eastern India, [ring Prof Roy 9748726895 for details]). Online Registration will be on first come first served basis till 35 positions are filled. To register send your full name, contact details and a short bio (within 150 words) to *heritagesseiconference@gmail.com*.

Minimum age of participants is 16 years. Physical ability and mental alertness essential. Workshop will use scenes from Macbeth and Twelfth Night. Basic knowledge of Hindi, English and Bangla required.

**The Heritage College, Chowbaga Road, Anandapur, P.O. East Kolkata Township,
Kolkata- 700107.**