

CALL FOR PAPERS

SHAKESPEARE AND IONESCO. DRAMA AS DIFFERENCE

April 7th/8th 2017

GUIDELINES:

William Shakespeare and Eugen Ionesco are, each in his own way, Masters of *Difference* (result) and *Differentiation* (process). They do not confine themselves to a mere mechanical rendering of *otherness*, of any kind of otherness, but, through a thousand and one dramatic means they obstinately trace and minutely describe the process and its result in the nature of human being.

How can *difference* and *differentiation* be understood in the drama of Shakespeare or Ionesco?

- Difference can be understood as marking an entity in terms of dissimilarity of personal appearance, but also as the result of being totally unlike anyone else: strange, monstrous, ethereal, uncanny beyond measure, uniquely, or radically other. Difference therefore may emerge in ordinary encounters between people varying in age, gender, rank, class, work, creed, but also in encounters with the supernatural, ghosts or spirits, unworldly or magical creatures.

- Differentiation is the process which fashions the difference, the fact of “being-unlike.” As such, differentiation involves “a distancing from” or “a transformation into” some recognizable or unrecognizable form of otherness: the crisis of identity is an illustration of the struggle between the inner and outer self or being oneself changes into being estranged to oneself; differentiation is also a genuine transformation: being young becomes being old, being alive changes into being dead; ideal government moves between acting and contemplation, between legitimacy and usurpation, linked as it is to the fashioning and self-fashioning of dukes, princes, and kings; war turns into peace, fortune grows into misfortune, power into weakness, high declines into low, low swings into high in the never ending ceaseless ebb and flow of life.

- Distinction can be seen as excessive differing, such as hatred and quarrel, dissension and altercation, but it can also turn into a condition for friendship and love or deep awe and worship.

- Variety is promoted and ensured by the play of differences. It may constitute a constellation which is articulated within the same individual as different states of mind, perceptions, beliefs, conceptions, attitudes, and poses. Or it can hold together difference and differentiation in the world: a wide range of beings differing in age, gender, rank, work, views, beliefs, attitudes, and actions are caught in a perpetual dynamic change.

In other words, Shakespeare’s is the eventful Renaissance world replete with a variety of unlike beings of excellent differences manufactured by and held together through the dynamics of differentiation. How did Shakespeare do it? How did Ionesco manage it? And to what end? And what is it to us, this differing Hecuba?

POSSIBLE PANELS (BUT NOT LIMITED TO THESE)

1. Differences, differentiations, varieties
2. Shakespeare, Ionesco, *la différence* – can that be?
3. Emotional interiority and exteriority
4. Logic of the diverse and diversions, the absurd as refusal of difference
5. Imagination and non-real, unreal, surreal images
6. The play of political differences: legitimacy and usurpation, status quo and violence
7. In-difference: postponing the difference, absence of difference, nondifferentiation
8. On alterities, i.e., on Calibans, Rhinoceroses, et al.
9. Varieties: *Macbeth* and *Macbett*
10. On the infinite self-differentiation: Shakespeare /Ionesco lost and found in translation

REGISTRATION:

Registrations to the conference can be made via e-mail and have to include

- message subject: SDS Conferinta Shakespeare/Ionesco.
- name, surname, year of study, specialty, programme (BA or MA), affiliation (university, faculty, department)
- title and short summary (5-8 lines)
- name, surname and rank of academic supervisor and his/her agreement
- the participants are kindly asked to observe the format in the annex and not to exceed the number of 7 pages
- papers can be either in Romanian or in English, with a summary in the language not used in the text

Registrations deadline: April 3rd 2017

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