

SAA 2019 S37: Shakespeare and “Minor” Dramatists

From: Tom Rutter

Sent: Monday 1 October, 16:53

Subject: SAA 2019 S37: Shakespeare and “Minor” Dramatists

To:

Dear 'Shakespeare and "Minor" Dramatists' participants,

I hope you will forgive the lack of individual salutations at the top of this email, but as you'll see from the recipient list, you are numerous! We're very pleased to welcome you all to our seminar, 'Shakespeare and "minor" dramatists' for SAA 2019 in Washington, D.C., which promises to be an exciting gathering.

Obviously you have all seen the short blurb about the seminar topic when you registered, but here are our slightly longer thoughts for the seminar:

Seminar 37: Shakespeare and “minor” dramatists

Over recent decades, various tendencies in criticism have offered ways of writing about dramatists perceived as “minor”. Studies of acting companies and lost plays have emphasised the contribution that less canonical figures made to company repertoires, whether working in collaboration with their more illustrious counterparts, with each other, or individually. Feminist critics have challenged prevailing assumptions about canonicity, about who should be regarded as “major” or “minor”, and about the ideological implications of making such distinctions. Research into attribution has questioned models of authorship that treat play-writing as an individual, primarily literary activity, with the contribution of dramatists such as Wilkins and Peele to the Shakespearean corpus increasingly being recognised. And more generally, scholarly editions and critical studies have maintained the profile of dramatists who are not minor, but who sit less securely on curricula and in publishers' catalogues than Shakespeare, Marlowe, Jonson or Middleton, including Brome, Heywood, Nashe and Shirley.

In light of these developments, this seminar aims to consider the relationship between Shakespeare and “minor” dramatists of the early modern period (including “anon”). This may take the form of influence (in either direction), collaboration, company affiliation, critical reception, or other forms of relationship; papers may also challenge the categories of “major” and “minor”, address the processes that shape canon-formation, or contest the marginalisation of specific dramatists. The seminar leaders are willing to consider proposals for papers on minor dramatists that do not relate them to Shakespeare.

We would also like to remind you of the conference dates: Wednesday 17 to Saturday 20 April 2019. Please note that due to the high number of registrations for SAA in recent years, the conference has been starting earlier than usual, with the first group of seminars and workshops beginning on the Thursday morning. The venue is the Renaissance Hotel in Washington, D.C. (a block away from the Gallery Place Chinatown stop of the Washington Metro), and registration opens on 01 January 2019. We'll let you know the precise time/venue of our seminar as soon as SAA releases this information.

To Do List

1) As a first step, could we now ask you to please hit reply to this email to acknowledge receipt and to signal your willingness to participate in the seminar.

2) By Saturday 01 December 2018, please email David and me with a title and brief abstract (250 words) for your paper.

3) By Friday 15 February 2019, please email complete papers (c.12 pages double-spaced, or about 3500-4000 words). This will allow us approx. 6 weeks to review each other's work and formulate responses ahead of the meeting. Seminar papers must be submitted in order for a participant to be listed in the official SAA programme. Please note that this is the SAA's deadline, not ours, so I'm afraid there's no scope for flexibility on this score.

4) David and I will then divide participants into groups, and will ask for 2-3 responses (c.1 page) to other group members' papers, and 2-3 general discussion questions to help get discussion going on the day itself. We are asking for these responses and questions to please be emailed to us by Monday 1 April 2019, being two weeks before the conference begins.

Please let us know if it would be helpful to you (e.g. for funding purposes) to have this email in a different form (e.g. Word doc).

Finally, thank you all for your interest in this seminar. We're looking forward to reading your work on 'minor' dramatists!

Best wishes,

Tom and David.

From: Tom Rutter <t.rutter@sheffield.ac.uk>
Sent: Wednesday, November 28, 2018 4:56 AM
To:

Dear everyone,

This is just a gentle reminder (to those of you who haven't done so already) that David and I would like you to email us a title and brief abstract (250 words) for your paper by this Saturday (1 Dec).

If your schedule is anything like my schedule, then now will be exactly the wrong time to be receiving this email, in which case, apologies!

Thanks and best wishes,

Tom

From: Tom Rutter <t.rutter@sheffield.ac.uk>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 10:31 AM
To:
Subject: Re: SAA 2019 S37: Shakespeare and "Minor" Dramatists
Dear everyone

I hope you're all well and finding time for research at what always seems to be a busy point in the year.

I've just received an email from the SAA reminding me that by 15 Feb David and I need to send them:

1. In the email body, names of all those who have completed the work assigned and will participate in onsite discussion. These names will appear in the printed program.
Please let us know if there are any updates for names or affiliations,
2. In the same email body, names of all those who have withdrawn, and
3. An MS Word attachment containing:
 - a. Title of your session,
 - b. Name and affiliation of session leader, and
 - c. For each paper, (1) paper title, (2) author name, (3) author affiliation, (4) paper abstract.

So, sorry to have to pass on this reminder to you, but please can you ensure that we have your paper by that date (or preferably before)? We have your abstracts already, but we'd be grateful if you could check what you sent us and let us know if you want to make any changes.

Friday 15 Feb is the SAA's date, not ours, so we really do need your papers by then. If you are anticipating any problems please let us know.

Best wishes

Tom

From: Tom Rutter <t.rutter@sheffield.ac.uk>
Sent: Tuesday, 26 February 2019 1:45 AM
To:
Subject: Re: SAA papers on the way

Dear everyone

Thanks again for getting your papers in on time. You may remember our plan to proceed as follows:

David and I will divide participants into groups, and will ask for 2-3 responses (c.1 page per response) to other group members' papers, and 2-3 general discussion questions to help get discussion going on the day itself. We are asking for these responses and questions to please be emailed to us by Monday 1 April 2019, being two weeks before the conference begins.

--we've now divided you into four groups of three or four, and I'm about to send the papers out to you (I'll do this in batches to minimise file size). When you've written your responses and questions, please can you email these to the other members of your groups, copying me and David in to the email?

The groups are as follows
[...]

Please let me know if any of this is unclear. Happy reading, and I look forward to meeting you in DC!

Best wishes
Tom

Re: SAA papers on the way

Tom Rutter <t.rutter@sheffield.ac.uk>

Dear everyone

Thanks again for the prompt delivery of your papers. Most of you have now sent your responses (thank you!) -- either I or David should have acknowledged receipt of these, so if we haven't, please can you resend them? (Note: Friday will be my last day in the office for a bit and I'll then be out of email contact until a couple of days before the conference.)

Not all of the responses included the '2-3 general discussion questions to help get discussion going on the day itself', so if you were able to email these to us some time before the conference that would also be appreciated. One thing I'd like to avoid on the day is a structure where we simply go from group to group in turn -- that would be rather dull for the other groups, and I think the more we can think in terms of general questions (in so far as that's possible for a quite baggy topic) the easier it will be to involve everyone in the discussion throughout.

Best wishes

Tom

Tom Rutter <t.rutter@sheffield.ac.uk>

Dear everyone

This is just a heads-up to the effect that I'll be on leave for a week after today so probably won't be in a position to reply to emails until the week of the conference. Also a reminder that you're welcome (indeed, encouraged) to read papers from outside your group -- I sent all of these out on the 25th but do let me and David know if you no longer have them. There are definitely points of contact between papers from different groups (e.g. [...]); the group division is a (necessarily) blunt instrument that is bound to miss some of these.

Thanks for all your work, and best wishes

Tom