

**Call for Papers**  
***Shakespeare Jahrbuch* 161 (2025)**  
**“Diversity and Community”**

The 2025 volume of ***Shakespeare Jahrbuch*** will be a special issue on “**Diversity and Community**”. Shakespeare’s works have been praised for celebrating the universality of human nature; often misunderstood as a unifying, indeed reifying image of a standardized norm, this universality truly lies in a recognition of diversity and its importance for as well as challenge to community-building. The editorial board invites contributions on the uneasy but foundational relation between diversity and community, individual and society, from a variety of perspectives, in Shakespeare’s plays and/or poetry; productions, adaptations and spin-offs of these works; as well as references to Shakespeare in philosophical, political and cultural debates over equality and inclusion. Contributions with a contemporary or historical perspective are equally welcome.

**Possible topics** include, but are not limited to:

- representations of diversity within communities, as well as the diversity of communities on the Shakespearean stage
- the relation between individual and society: criteria, mechanisms and legitimization of inclusion and exclusion, belonging and alienation in early modern culture
- the formation of communities and the diversifying impact of difference along lines of religion, social status, nationality, race, ethnicity, sex and gender, sexual desire, (dis)ability
- political and philosophical foundations of community in early modern culture
- language communities and linguistic diversity in Shakespeare
- early modern communities confronted with or shaped by the mobility of people, objects, or ideas; the ethical challenges of diversity and community in issues of displacement/integration, tradition/innovation, hospitality/hostility
- the relations between individuals and communities along different spatial axes: from family and the household to the parish, neighbourhood or the guild, villages, towns and cities, to the more abstract, imagined community of the nation
- embodied difference and early modern explanations for diversity (humoral pathology, climate theory, astrology, supernatural or divine forces)
- strategic, ethical and affective alliances between (individuals from different) communities in early modern culture and the Shakespeare canon
- minority communities and their relation to hegemonic society, then and now
- the role of affect (e.g. love, empathy; hate, disgust) and cognition (memory, judgment, imagination) in forging communities in the playworld and the playhouse
- the audience as community, the diversity of playgoers in early modern England and today
- diversifying the Shakespeare canon through adaptations and rewritings from the perspective of specific communities
- casting as a tool for diversity in performance
- accessible Shakespeare, in theatres, classrooms and academia

Please send an electronic version (as a Word/docx-file) of your article to the general editor of *Shakespeare Jahrbuch*, Prof. Isabel Karremann (email: [karremann@es.uzh.ch](mailto:karremann@es.uzh.ch)). The deadline for submissions (in English or German and of not more than 6,000 words) is **30 April 2024**. Please observe the style sheet, which can be downloaded from the website of the German Shakespeare Society (<https://shakespeare-gesellschaft.de/shakespeare-jahrbuch/note-on-submission/?lang=en>). Articles are selected for publication on the basis of a double-blind peer-review system.