

LAHP AHRC Collaborative PhD Studentship

Race and the Body in Early Modern Drama and its Contemporary Performance

Partner: Shakespeare's Globe

Academic Lead: Professor Gordon McMullan, King's College London.

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Applications are invited for a LAHP/AHRC-funded Collaborative Doctoral Award at **King's College London in collaboration with Shakespeare's Globe**. This fully-funded studentship will commence in October 2020.

This project seeks an urgent revision of the critical study of the body in Shakespeare's England and on the early modern stage by considering the relationship of race to the understanding of bodies in early modern culture and by assessing the value of a recuperation of early modern notions of the racial body for the analysis of contemporary performance of early modern drama. The thesis will advance the field by conducting research intersectionally, combining methodologies that might include, e.g., historical phenomenology, critical race theory and performance studies. It will examine race in relation to Shakespearean/early modern drama through a range of topics including, e.g., bodily systems, the relationship between dissection and the colonial enterprise, the performance of race on the early modern stage, black presence in Tudor/Stuart England, England's role in the slave trade, cross-cultural encounters and the ways in which the theatre acknowledged and represented these encounters; and it will reassess contemporary theatrical choices in respect of race in light of this new knowledge.

The project's objectives are as follows:

- To reconsider the critical appraisal of early modern theories of the body and their application to Shakespearean and early modern drama in relation to questions of race and ethnicity
- To develop a robust critical methodology for analysing the relationship between early modern dramatic culture and contemporary performance in respect of the representation of race
- To examine the implications and impacts of non-traditional casting in contemporary performance at Shakespeare's Globe and other theatres in light of knowledge gained from the analysis of the intersections of early modern somatic theory and issues of race and ethnicity.



Projected research questions include the following:

- In what ways does early modern somatic knowledge take whiteness as normative? To what extent does this ‘norm’ erase the assessment of early modern racial diversity in relation to the understanding of the body? What is the relationship between white Eurocentric formative theories of the body and early modern dramatic texts?
- In what ways does the critical field account for racial diversity in its consideration of the humours, the senses, the passions, theories of movement and the fashioning of the body?
- What value can a recuperation of an early modern notion of the racial body have in the analysis of contemporary performance and in the consideration of casting and theatre technologies that were developed without due attention to racial diversity?

We have sought in this description to outline a field of work that will give clear academic direction to the student without overly restricting his/her intellectual agency. It will be the student’s task to develop his/her own project within the field delineated.

We encourage applications from any candidate with appropriate qualifications (normally this will mean relevant high achievement at both BA and MA level); we would particularly welcome applications from candidates who identify as Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME).

Studentship details:

The AHRC-funded London Arts and Humanities Partnership (LAHP) brings together eight leading British research universities: King’s College London, London School of Economics and Political Science, Queen Mary University London, Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, Royal College of Art, Royal College of Music, School of Advanced Study and University College London.

The studentship includes a stipend at the Research Council UK Home/ EU rate (£17,009 per annum 2019/20 rates) plus tuition fees for three and half years. The awarded candidate will also be entitled to a £550 per annum stipend top-up. As a LAHP student, the successful candidate will have full access to the LAHP Doctoral Training Partnership development activities and networking opportunities, joining a cohort of about 90 students per year. Studentships can be either full or part-time.

Applicants should have a good undergraduate degree in a relevant discipline, and a Masters-level qualification or equivalent which meets AHRC requirements for research training. Applicants with relevant work/professional experience who are considering doing a PhD are also encouraged to apply.

Closing Date: 22nd March 2020

For more information and to apply for the studentship, please see the [LAHP website](#).