



UNIVERSITÀ
DI TRENTO
Dipartimento di
Lettere e Filosofia



GrACE

Green Europe:
Active Citizenship
and the Environment



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Planet Ophelia. Doing Shakespeare in the Anthropocene

Shaul Bassi
Università Ca' Foscari Venezia



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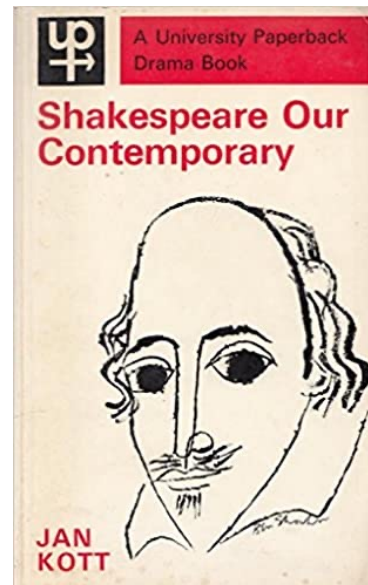
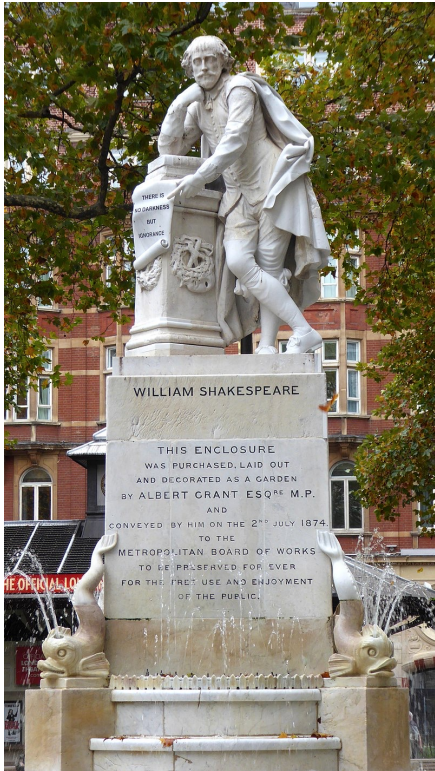
Keyword: **environmental humanities**



The climate crisis is also a crisis of culture, and thus of the imagination.
Amitav Ghosh, *The Great Derangement: Climate Change and the Unthinkable*. University of Chicago Press, 2016

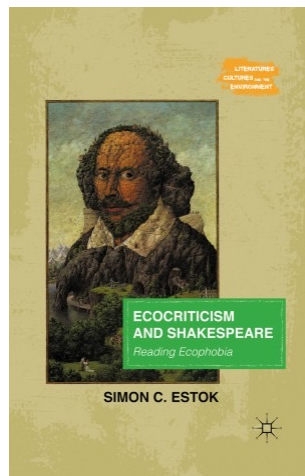
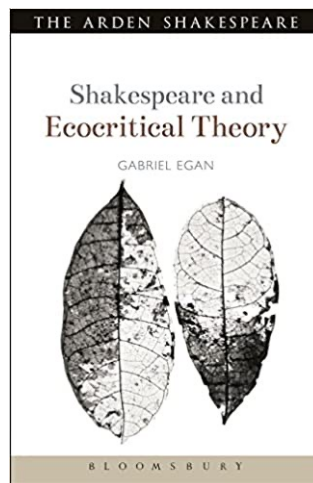
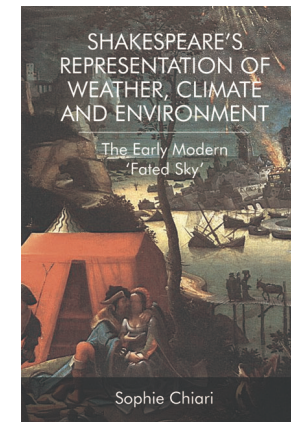
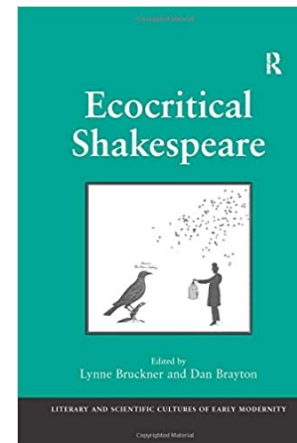
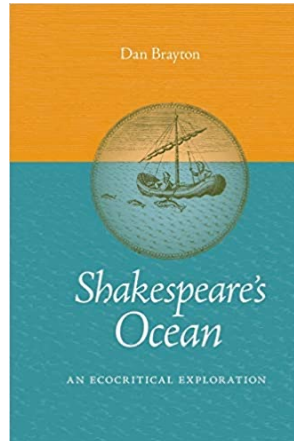
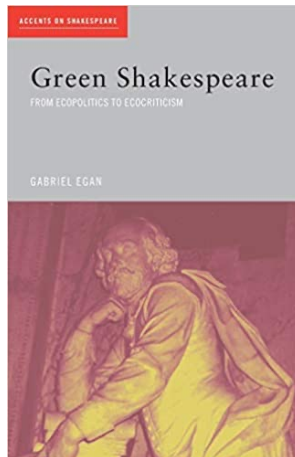
L'emergenza ecologica non cambia solo il futuro. Cambia anche il passato.
Carla Benedetti, *La letteratura ci salverà dall'estinzione*, Einaudi, 2021

Keyword: **adaptation**

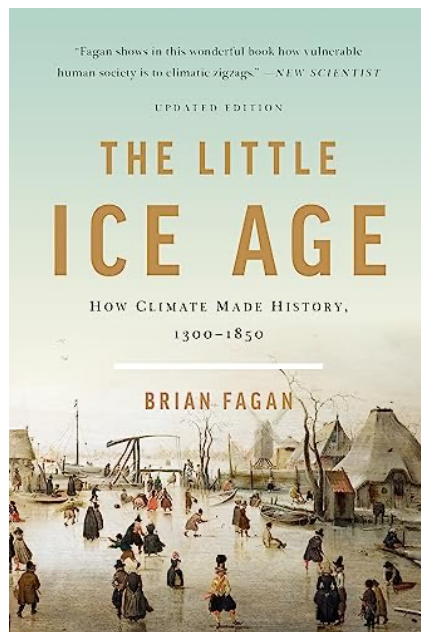


- the action or process of adapting or being adapted: *the adaptation of teaching strategy to meet students' needs* | [count noun] : *adaptations to the school curriculum.*
- [count noun] a film, television drama, or stage play that has been adapted from a written work: *a three-part adaptation of Hard Times.*
- *Biology* the process of change by which an organism or species becomes better suited to its environment. *living in groups is an adaptation to increase the efficiency of hunting.*

Keyword: **ecocriticism**

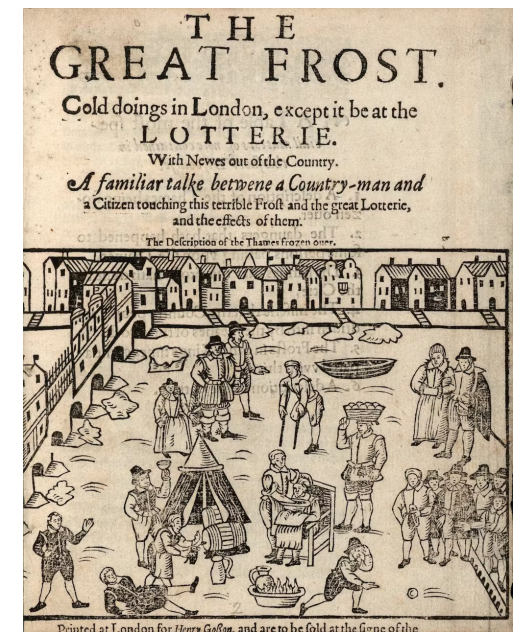
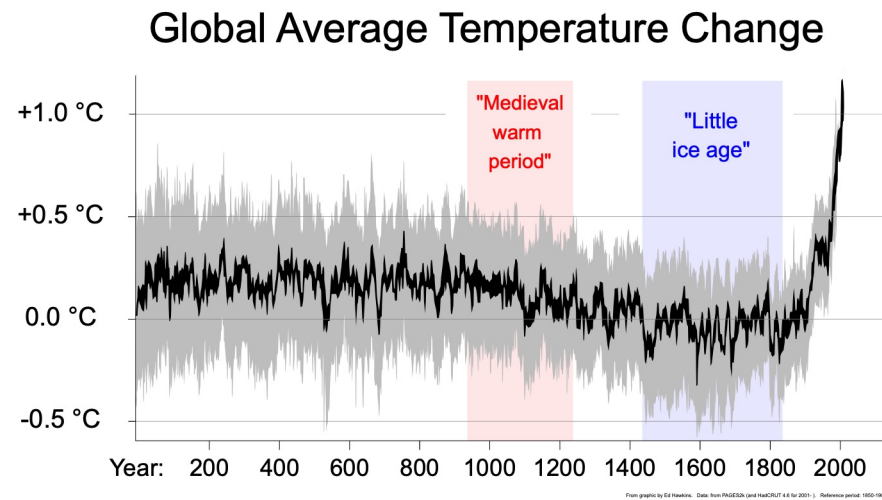


Keyword: **climate change**



Titania The spring, the summer, the childing autumn,
angry winter, change their wonted liveries, and the mazed
world, by their increase, now knows not which is which.
And this same progeny of evils comes from our debate,
from our dissension.

Midsummer Night's Dream 2.1.112-17





Keyword: **biodiversity**

Titania Be kind and courteous to this gentleman;
Hop in his walks and gambol in his eyes;
Feed him with apricocks and dewberries,
With purple grapes, green figs, and mulberries;
The honey-bags steal from the humble-bees,
And for night-tapers crop their waxen thighs
And light them at the fiery glow-worm's eyes,
To have my love to bed and to arise;
And pluck the wings from Painted butterflies
To fan the moonbeams from his sleeping eyes:
Nod to him, elves, and do him courtesies.

Midsummer Night's Dream 3.1.158-68



Keywords: **racism / colonialism**

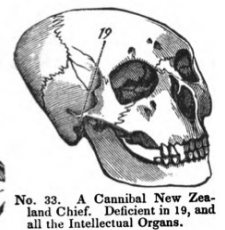


Caliban This island's mine, by Sycorax my mother,
Which thou tak'st from me. When thou cam'st first,
Thou strok'st me, and made much of me; wouldst give me
Water with berries in 't; and teach me how
To name the bigger light, and how the less,
That burn by day and night: and then I lov'd thee,
And show'd thee all the qualities o' th' isle,
The fresh springs, brine-pits, barren place and fertile:
Curs'd be I that did so! All the charms
Of Sycorax, toads, beetles, bats, light on you!
For I am all the subjects that you have,
Which first was mine own King: and here you sty me
In this hard rock, whiles you do keep from me
The rest o' th' island.

Prospero Thou most lying slave,
Whom stripes may move, not kindness! I have us'd thee,
Filth as thou art, with human care; and lodg'd thee,
In mine own cell, till thou didst seek to violate
The honour of my child.

Caliban O ho, O ho! would 't had been done!
Thou didst prevent me; I had peopled else
This isle with Calibans.

The Tempest 1.2.332-352



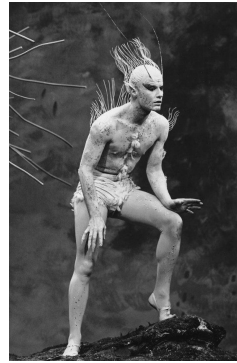


Keywords: **emotion** / **care**



Caliban Be not afeard; the isle is full of noises,
Sounds and sweet airs, that give delight, and hurt not.
Sometimes a thousand twangling instruments
Will hum about mine ears; and sometime voices,
That, if I then had wak'd after long sleep,
Will make me sleep again: and then, in dreaming,
The clouds methought would open, and show riches
Ready to drop upon me; that, when I wak'd,
I cried to dream again.

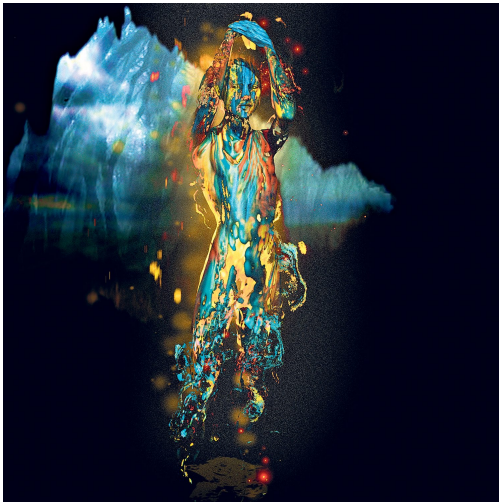
The Tempest 3.2.129-137



Keyword: **metamorphosis**

Ariel Full fathom five thy father lies;
Of his bones are coral made;
Those are pearls that were his eyes:
Nothing of him that doth fade,
But doth suffer a sea-change
Into something rich and strange.

The Tempest, 1.2.397-402



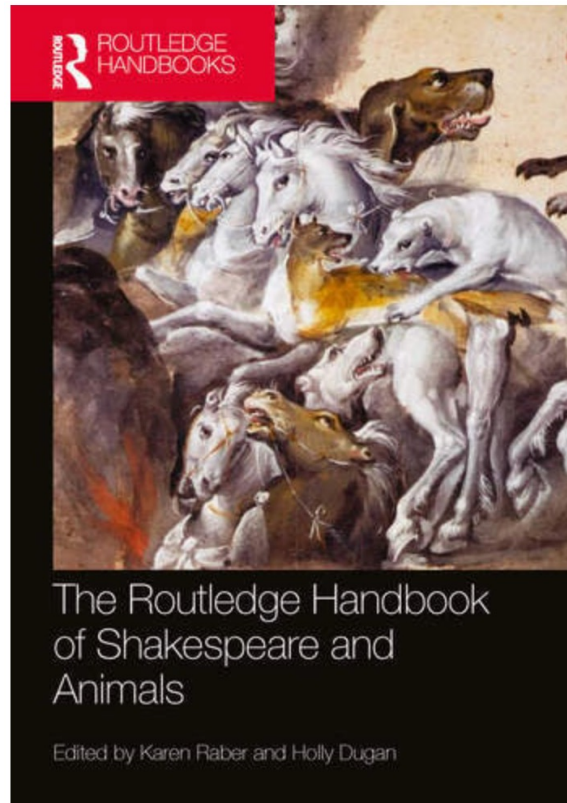
Keyword: **animals**

The Merchant of Venice

animal, ape, bait, bee, cat, cattle, colt, crow, cur, dog, dove, drone, ewe, fish, gnat, goose, gudgeon, herd, human, inhuman, lamb, lark, lion, martlet, mutton, neat, nightingale, parrot, pigeon, pork, ram, rat, sea-monster, serpent, sheep, snail, snake, spider, swan, swine, wether, wildcat, wolf, wool, worm, wren, wryneck.

Othello

ape, asp, ass, baboon, Barbary, bear, beast, birdlime, butterfly, Caliban, cat, centaur, courser, Crab, crocodile, daw, dog, ewe, fly, goat, grasshopper, guinea-hen, haggard, hen, horn, house, Hydra, inhuman, jennet, loon, monster, parrot, pearl, polecat, ram, raven, salmon, seel, serpent, silkworm, snipe, swan, toad, viper, wildcat, wolf, worm.



MALAYAN TIGER

"Then imitate the action of the tiger;
Stiffen the sinews, summon up the blood."

—Henry V

PHOTOGRAPH BY JOEL SARTORE, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTO ARK



1974

Keyword: **performance**



Keyword: **ecophobia/ecophilia**

Hamlet this majestic roof fretted with golden fire, why, it appeareth nothing to me but a foul and pestilent congregation of vapours.

Hamlet, 2.2.302–3

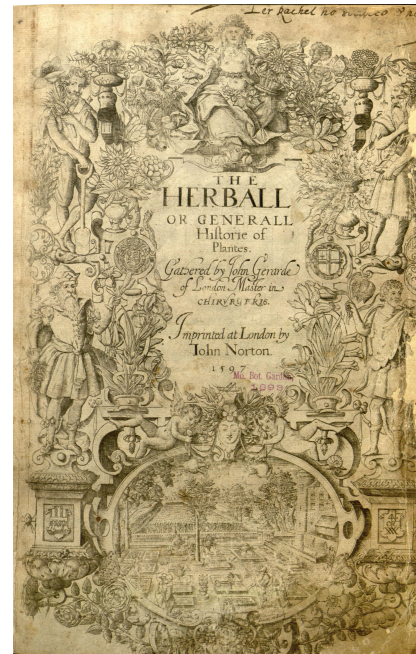
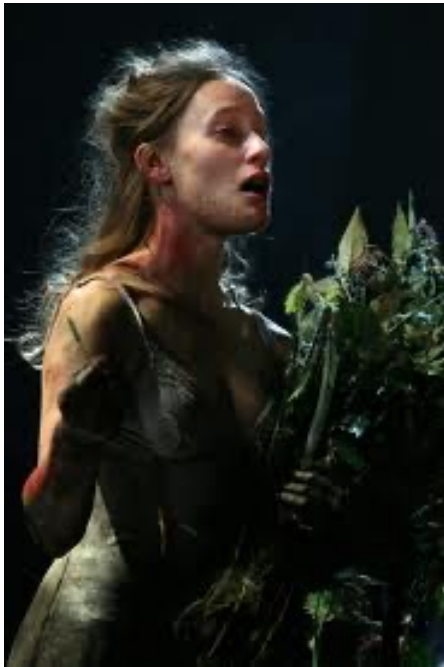
It will but skin and film the ulcerous place,
Whiles rank corruption, mining all within,
Infects unseen 3.4.151-53

the sun breed maggots in a dead dog
being a good kissing carrion 2.2.182-83



ecocriticism is committed to making connections, then it is committed to recognizing that there is a thing called **ecophobia** and that racism, misogyny, homophobia, and speciesism are thoroughly interwoven with it ...

Simon C. Estok, *Ecocriticism and Shakespeare: Reading Ecophobia*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2011.



John Gerard,
*Herball, or Generall Historie of
Plantes* (London, 1597)

Ophelia There's **rosemary**, that's for remembrance -
pray you, love, remember. And there is **pansies**, that's for thoughts.

Laertes A document in madness: thoughts and remembrance fitted.

Ophelia There's **fennel** for you, and **columbines**.
There's **rue** for you. And here's some for me. We may
call it **herb of grace** a Sundays. You must wear your
rue with a difference. There's a **daisy**. I would give
you some **violets**, but they withered all when my
father died. They say a made a good end.

Hamlet, 4.5.172-81



John Everett Millais,
Ophelia (1851-2)

Gertrude There is a willow grows askant the brook
That shows his hoary leaves in the glassy stream.
Therewith fantastic garlands did she make
Of crow-flowers, nettles, daisies, and long purples,
That liberal shepherds give a grosser name,
But our cold maids do dead men's fingers call them.
Hamlet, 4.7.166-75



John William Waterhouse, *Ophelia* (1889)



André Masson, *Ophelia* (1937)



Gregory Crewdson, *Untitled (Ophelia)* 2001



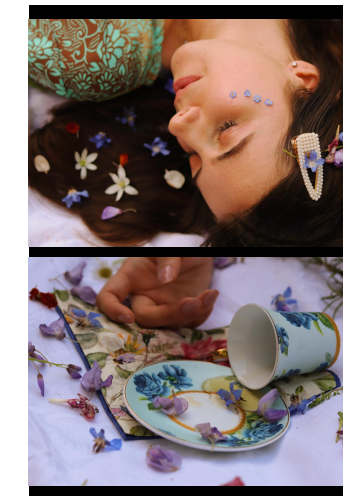
Social Network images of Ophelia



Sara Lando, *Ophelia series* (2024)



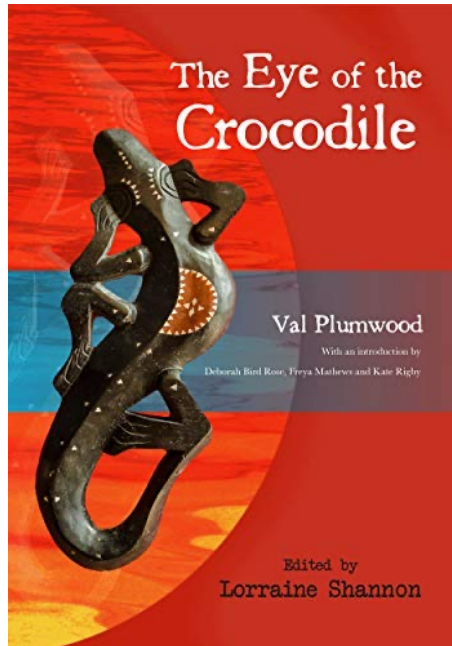
Ca' Foscari University *Ecology and Literature* student projects (2024)





「And there's seaweeds for you」





Hamlet Not where he eats, but where a is eaten. A certain convocation of politic worms are e'en at him. Your worm is your only emperor for diet: we fat all creatures else to fat us, and we fat ourselves for maggots. Your fat king and your lean beggar is but variable service – two dishes, but to one table. [...] A man may fish with the worm that hath eat of a king, and eat of the fish that hath fed of this worm.

Hamlet, 4.3.19-24,
26-27



David Tennant as Hamlet with André Tchaikowsky
Royal Shakespeare Company *Hamlet* 2008



Entertainment Hamlet. Table Top Shakespeare: At Home Edition 2020





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Thank you



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