

The Bill and Carol Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry  
Emory University  
2022-2023 Great Works Seminar



## Shakespeare & 21st-Century African American Culture

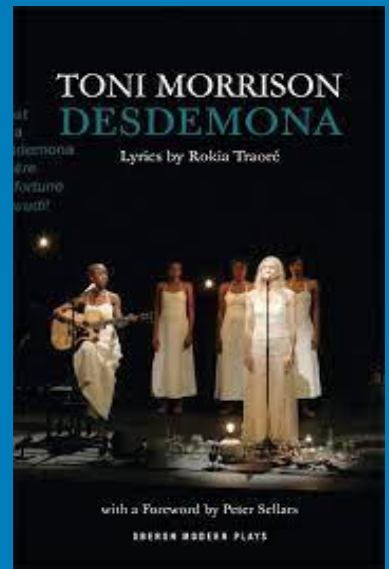
November 21, November 28, & December 5, 2022

5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Moderated by Fox Center Postdoctoral Fellows  
Laura Vrana and Benjamin Jeffery

How, when, and why have African American theater artists across eras participated in performing Shakespeare? And how, when, and why have Black authors and playwrights chosen to write about Shakespeare, praising and/or seeking to revise his classic plays, updating them, or making them more relevant to African American experiences? Through considering *Othello*, a short piece by James Baldwin on Shakespeare, Toni Morrison's 2011 *Othello* response play *Desdemona*, and James Ijames's 2022 Pulitzer-Prize-winning *Fat Ham* that remakes *Hamlet* into a tale of "Black queer discovery set at a Southern family barbecue," we will explore these and other questions to consider how the immortal Bard's works inspire different communities today.

This seminar will meet **in-person** at the **Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry** at Emory University, 1635 N. Decatur Rd., Atlanta, GA, **from 5:00-7:00 p.m.** on the **following Monday evenings during the 2022 fall semester: November 21, November 28, and December 5.** For further information and to reserve a spot on a "first come basis," email the Fox Center at [foxcenter@emory.edu](mailto:foxcenter@emory.edu). It is expected that participants attend all three sessions. Everyone from the Atlanta community is welcome and invited to join us for this free seminar.



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