ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF SHAKESPEARE IN ATLANTA
(begins Feb. 2, 2017)

As a sequel to Emory’s recent celebration of Shakespeare's four-hundred-year legacy, this seminar invites participants to contemplate how Shakespeare has been studied, performed, and celebrated in Atlanta in the past century, focusing especially on race, gender, and class as crucial tools for making sense of this history.

Our initial sessions will be devoted to some little-known female pioneers of Shakespeare pedagogy and performance in the separate and unequal worlds of the Jim Crow South. Moving forward chronologically, we’ll then reflect on Othello as a potent signifier of race relations in modern-day Atlanta, exploring a popular 1979 performance at the Alliance Theatre as well as a 2003 Othello-related glass installation on view at the High Museum. In our last session, we will turn to the fascinating genesis of the Shakespeare Tavern Playhouse and the Atlanta Shakespeare Company’s ongoing role in bringing Shakespeare performance into our under-resourced public schools. Having begun to take stock of this rich and complicated history, we’ll end by thinking together about what Shakespeare means—and might mean—in Atlanta today.

This seminar will be moderated by Patricia Cahill, Associate Professor of English at Emory University, with guest lecturers Keith Botelho (Kennesaw State) and Laura Cole (Atlanta Shakespeare Company). It will meet for four consecutive Thursday sessions from 6:30pm-8pm on February 2, 9, 16, and 23 at Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry. Seating is limited and must be reserved in advance. For further information or to reserve seating, please email the Fox Center at foxcenter@emory.edu, or call 404.727.6424.

We are grateful to Georgia Humanities for its support of this program. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in these seminars do not necessarily reflect those of Georgia Humanities.