

The Fifteenth IASEMS Conference

*Waters:  
Fluidity and Crossing  
in Shakespeare and Early  
Modern Texts*

16-17 May 2025

Sala Conferenze Rettorato  
University of Salento  
Piazzetta Tancredi 7, Lecce

**Scientific and Organising Committee**

**Maria Luisa De Rinaldis** and **Maria Renata Dolce** (University of Salento) and the IASEMS Executive Board (**Maddalena Pennacchia, Nicoletta Caputo, Lisanna Calvi, Camilla Caporicci, Maria Elisa Montironi**)

[info@iasems.org](mailto:info@iasems.org)

IASEMS





Friday, 16 May

9.00 Registration

9.30 Conference Opening and Welcome Remarks

**Maria Grazia Guido**, Head of the Department of Humanities, University of Salento

**Maria Luisa De Rinaldis** and **Maria Renata Dolce**, University of Salento

**Maddalena Pennacchia**, President of IASEMS

10.00-11.00 Keynote Lecture

Chair: Maria Luisa De Rinaldis

**Subha Mukherji**, Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge Univ.  
*"Weary of solid firmness": Early Modern Crossings and Migrant Poetics*

Coffee Break

11.15-13.15 Panel: *Re-Imagining Through Water*

Chair: Maddalena Pennacchia

**Shaul Bassi**, Ca' Foscari University of Venice  
*Ophelia in Venice: Hydrofeminist Re-Imagings*

**Maria Paola Guarducci**, Roma Tre University  
*Origins, Slavery and Exile: Transformations and Re-Births on The Tempest's Island*

**Maria Valentini**, Univ. of Cassino and Southern Lazio  
*Death by Water? Fluidity versus Solidity in Shakespeare's Antony and Cleopatra as an Opposition Related to Conflicting Concepts of Time*

**Silvia Silvestri**, University of Bari "Aldo Moro"  
*"Lost... on a dangerous sea": Ominous Waters in Othello and its Narrative Sources*

Lunch Break

14.45-16.15 Panel: *Transformations*

Chair: Laura Tosi

**Michela Compagnoni**, Roma Tre University  
*"Being without fixity": Fluidity, Transformation, and Disembodiment from The Tempest to Jeanette Winterson's "Ghost in the Machine"*

**John Joughin**, Independent Scholar  
*On Fugitive Being and Piratical Identity: Shakespeare's Poetics of Submergence*

**Alina Bottez**, University of Bucharest  
*Water as Boundary in Hamlet, Othello, and Several Transmediations*

Break

16.30-18.30 Panel: *Crossings Borders/Realities*

Chair: Alessandra Squeo

**Archie Cornish**, University of Warwick  
*Bodies of Water: Enchantment, Disenchantment, and Early Modern River Personifications*

**Angelo Monaco**, University of Bari "Aldo Moro"  
*Multiscalar Aquatic Crossings in the Sonnets*

**Rama Friedlander**, University of Sheffield  
*Crossing the Rubicon and the Ebb and Flow of the Thames: Rivers in the Henry IV Plays*

**Zoe Gross**, University of Sidney  
*Rivers as Shoring up Chastity in the Trinity Manuscript of Milton's Comus*

19.30 Guided Tour

21.00 Social dinner with *pizzica* dance performance

Saturday, 17 May

09.30-11.00 Panel: *Mobility: (Is)Lands to Reshape Time/Identities*

Chair: Manuela D'Amore

**David Lucking**, University of Salento  
*"Though the seas threaten, they are merciful": Sea-Change in The Tempest*

**Pasquale Pagano**, Univ. of Campania "L. Vanvitelli"  
*"Let this sad inter'm like the ocean be": Images of Fertility and Drought in Shakespeare's Sonnets*

**Anna Chiara Zambello**, University of Padua  
*Desdemona's Clepsydra. Perceiving Tragic Rhythm Through Feminine Fluid Affects*

Coffee Break

11.15-12.45 IASEMS General Meeting

12.45-13.15 Final Remarks

**Maria Luisa De Rinaldis** and **Maria Renata Dolce** (University of Salento) and the IASEMS Executive Board (**Maddalena Pennacchia**, **Nicoletta Caputo**, **Lisanna Calvi**, **Camilla Caporicci**, **Maria Elisa Montironi**)

