

THE INTERNATIONAL SHAKESPEARE ASSOCIATION

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2021 has begun!

It's New Year's Day as I write this and 2020 is past.

For the International Shakespeare Association, this is the year of the World Shakespeare Congress. It will come as no surprise to anyone that the global pandemic has put paid to our plans for the Shakespeare scholars of the world to gather for the congress in Singapore. Instead, Singapore will be bringing the Congress to the world!

Yes, it will be a virtual Congress and an even more truly global one: many scholars who are unable to make the trip will now be able to participate fully in a virtual and, we believe, even more exciting event, with new features, such as the Digital Asian Shakespeare Festival, that would never have been possible for an in-person Congress.

Paper sessions will be recorded and streamed for watching but with live q-and-a sessions to create that conversation so central to a gathering of scholars. Seminars will meet at times most convenient for their members so that the multiple time-zones in which delegates are living will be as little a barrier as possible to the exchanges about the seminar papers, that discussion that we all value.

In this completely rethought Congress – thanks to the creative imagination of the members of Local Organizing Committee – the Congress will for the first time not end when the live sessions are over but will be available for us to visit and revisit for the following year so that its many contributions to our work as scholars and teachers can continue to resonate.

You can register for the Congress seminars and workshops at <http://wsc2021.org/Seminars.html>. Registration for the Congress itself will open shortly. When registering for the Congress, delegates can also apply for financial grants to help towards the registration fee.

Join us for a WSC that puts its emphasis on the World, with a distinctive flavour that only Singapore can provide.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Holland', written in a cursive style.

Peter Holland,
Chair,
International Shakespeare Association