

CFP

BHShakespeare Network Conference: Shakespeare and Visuality

Weimar, October 7-9, 2026



The Goethe-Schiller Archive, overlooking Weimar

Dear all,

I am delighted to confirm that the next meeting of the BHSN will take place at the Goethe-Schiller Archive in Weimar, Germany. (See below for information about the venue, nearby hotels and travel, kindly supplied by Professor Christa Jansohn.)

The topic for this year's meeting is *Shakespeare and Visuality*. The topic is chosen to honour Stuart Sillars' work on Shakespeare and visual art in books such as *Painting Shakespeare* (CUP 2006), *Shakespeare and the Visual Imagination* (CUP 2015) and *Shakespeare Seen* (2019).

Sillars's studies are often concerned with painting and book illustration but conceive of 'the visual' in many forms throughout a variety of social, historical, institutional contexts, in Shakespeare's plays as well as in their reception. We invite papers pertaining to Shakespeare and visuality broadly understood.

Topics may include, but are by no means limited to:

- Shakespeare and visual art/Visual art and Shakespeare
- Visuality in Shakespeare's language (imagery, ekphrasis, etc.)
- Visuality on Shakespeare's stage
- Visuality in Shakespeare reception (adaptations, intertexts, early criticism, etc.)
- Visuality in early modern/Renaissance culture
- Visuality in plays by contemporary playwrights (how does Shakespeare's plays resemble or differ from these?)
- The limits of visuality; visuality amid other senses; visuality and imagination

- The visual as a theme in Shakespeare ('ocular proof' etc.)
- Digital art, avant garde, abstraction
- Photography, film
- Fan art
- Theatre posters, film posters, other promotional materials
- Graphic satire, cartoons, picture books
- Monuments, memorials, architecture
- Comics, graphic novels, manga
- Religious, esoteric iconography
- Perspective, proportion, trompe-l'oeil
- Theories of visuality in literature/drama

The purpose of the conference is to lay down some foundations for a potential publication, but it is not necessary to plan with publishing in mind. Please approach the topic in the spirit of collaborative experimentation.

Basic information:

- There is no conference fee
- There are no parallel sessions
- Papers are 20 minutes plus 10 minutes of questions and discussion
- Lunch, dinner and sightseeing are crucial aspects of our meetings

The Weimar meeting will take place over three days during which we aim to include 10-15 papers as well as a roundtable discussion or seminar. The numbers issue is somewhat flexible. Online attendance will be possible.

If you would like to present a paper at the conference, please send a written outline of no more than 250 words to svenn-arve.myklebost@inn.no, before April 1, 2026.

Use this email address also if you have any questions about the conference.

Please be advised that cultural events taking place directly after the conference may affect hotel availability. **Book as soon as you can!**



The Shakespeare monument, by Otto Lessing (1904)

Conference venue:

Goethe- und Schiller-Archiv

Klassik Stiftung Weimar

Lecture hall

Jenaer Str. 1

99425 Weimar



About Weimar (by Christa Jansohn)

In 2026, we will meet for the first time in Germany: in Weimar, the city of Goethe and Schiller, but also, of course, the centre for Shakespeare enthusiasts. This is where the German Shakespeare Society was founded in 1864, as well as a Shakespeare library, which is still maintained today and houses some very rare treasures. On the society's 50th anniversary, the Shakespeare monument (1904) was unveiled in the park on the Ilm, and during the GDR era, a street was named after William Shakespeare.

In Weimar, we will have the opportunity to visit the Duchess Anna Amalia Library and the Graphic Collection with numerous Shakespeare works and some designs for the Shakespeare Monument.

Airports near Weimar:

- Erfurt
- Nürnberg
- Leipzig
- Munich
- Frankfurt am Main
- Berlin (not so near, but with good train service)

Train connections:

Deutsche Bundesbahn: Trains connections in English: <https://int.bahn.de/en>

Deutschland-Ticket, 63 Euros.

Personal subscription ticket, non-transferable. 2nd class.

The ticket is valid throughout Germany for any number of journeys on all local trains and all public transport within transport associations (S-Bahn, U-Bahn, streetcar, bus), regional tariffs and participating transport companies.

Professor Jansohn recommends the cheap Deutschland-Ticket (D-Ticket / Germany Ticket) for unlimited local public transportation (train, metro, tram, and bus) travel in Germany **for €63** per month,

Please consider the cancellation rules before buying online.

<https://abo.bahn.de/bestellen/?tarifid=84&lng=en#/productconfiguration>

Hotels in Weimar:

All hotels are in walking distance (apart from Hotel Kaiserin Augusta: 30 minutes on foot)

- **Kleine Residenz:** <https://www.residenz-pension.de/start-kleine-residenz.html> (nearest Hotel to the Goethe-Schiller-Archiv (GSA))
- Anna Amalia Hotel: <https://hotel-anna-amalia.de/>
- Pension am Goethe Platz: <https://www.pension-am-goethehaus.de/aktuelles.html>
- Hotel Alt Weimar: <https://www.pension-am-goethehaus.de/aktuelles.html>
- Hotel am Frauenplan: <https://hotel-am-frauenplan.de/>
- Russischer Hof: <https://www.bestwestern.de/hotels/Weimar/Best-Western-Premier-Grand-Hotel-Russischer-Hof/hotel>
- Hotel Kaiserin Augusta: <https://www.hotel-kaiserin-augusta.de/de/> (opposite the train station)
- Hotel Schillerhof: <https://www.schillerhof-weimar.de/de>

Tourist Information

<https://www.weimar.de/tourismus/tourist-information-weimar/>