

IASIL 2017

Book of Abstracts



- The dueling Dublin Shakespeares of 2015—*A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Abbey, set in a nursing home, which cast esteemed actors in their fifties and sixties in the roles of the young lovers, vs. *Romeo and Juliet* at the Gate, its title characters played by young Irish actors just beginning their careers.
- Galway-based Druid Theatre Company's remarkable adaptation of the Henriad, and its references to Irish insurrection and British conquest, as a six-hour marathon history cycle entitled *DruidShakespeare* (2015).

This paper will explore the strategies by which Irish playwrights like Marina Carr and Mark O'Rowe and Irish theatre practitioners like Selina Cartmell, Wayne Jordan and Garry Hynes adapt Shakespeare's texts to provoke meditation upon and debate about Ireland's history and its urgent contemporary challenges.

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Chitra Jayathilake (University of Sri Jayewardenepura)
Translations: Biopolitical linguistic cartography?

Irish playwright Brian Friel's Anglophone play, *Translations*—a three act play set in 1833, in a school in a Gaelic-speaking village in Ireland, which premiered at Field Day Theatre Company in Derry in Northern Ireland in 1980—theatrically explores how language was subtly used as a biopolitical stratagem during the period of British colonialism. Despite the significance of the play for the field of postcolonial, literary and cultural studies, existing scholarship has overlooked adequately exploring the diverse nuances of biopolitics reflected through the manipulation of language, and the correlation between language and colonial legacies. The play is scarcely read through both biopolitical and postcolonial lenses. By identifying this lacuna, this paper interrogates the regulation of language as represented in the play-text with a view to shedding light on linguistic biopolitical trajectories linked to colonialism, and how such stratagems are extended as colonial legacies. Thereby, the paper offers a new critical vocabulary to, and sheds light on, postcolonial and cultural studies in general, and specifically to the field of Anglophone Irish studies.

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