

The Research Institute for Literature and Cultural History

Professor Elspeth Graham

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Elspeth Graham works in the field of late sixteenth and seventeenth century literature and cultural studies, cultural theory, and contemporary culture. She has published books and articles on: seventeenth-century women's writing; autobiography and calendar-based life writing; human-animal relationships; early modern dissenting traditions; performance history; community-based education; and the medical humanities. Her abiding concern in all her research is with the 'inter', or what is between people, other forms of life, environments, places and things. Her most recent publications include, ' "Licencious gaddyng abroade": A Conflicted Imaginary of Mobility in Early Modern English Protestant Writings', Études Épistémè [En ligne], 35 | 2019, http://journals.openedition.org/episteme/4554 and 'The Training Relationship: horses, falcons, dogs, bears — and humans' in The Routledge Handbook of Shakespeare and Animals, eds., Holly Dugan and Karen Raber, August 2020.

She also curated, edited, introduced and contributed an article to a special issue of Shakespeare Bulletin (vol. 38, no. 3, Fall 2020) on 'Shakespeare, the Earls of Derby and the North-West'. This special issue relates to the Shakespeare North Playhouse project, based in Knowsley, Liverpool City Region, which she initiated and co-created in 2004 and which is now coming to fruition, opening in 2022. Shakespeare North is a £38m urban regeneration project inspired by the Shakespearean theatrical heritage of its location. At its heart is the creation of a replica 16th and 17th century theatre: Whitehall's Cockpit-in-Court. This beautiful, recreated theatre is enfolded in a modern building, itself surrounded by a performance garden, that will house extensive artistic, community and educational activities. Elspeth has been centrally involved in all aspects of Shakespeare North's development until its current pre-operational phase and, in particular, has organised numerous community-based cultural events as Chair of the Communities Committee. She is currently working on further articles and a monograph related to Shakespeare North.