



## Affective Communities in Premodernity

### A DramaSCAPES Workshop, 13th March 2026

Friday, 13th March / venue: KOL-G-212, Rämistrasse 71, 8006 Zürich

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09:30 – 09:45	Welcome and Introduction
09:45 – 10:45	Talk 1: "Watching <i>Titus</i> at Home: The Harington Household as an Early Modern Affective Community" by Prof. Pascale Aebischer (University of Exeter, UK) with Q&A
10:45 – 11:15	Coffee/Tea Break
11:15 – 12:15	Talk 2: " <i>Non Compos Mentis</i> and the 'Lawful' Dispossession of the Stranger in <i>The Merchant of Venice</i> " by Prof. Penelope Geng (Macalester College, Minneapolis) with Q&A

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#### A few words on the speakers

Pascale Aebischer is Professor of Shakespeare and Early Modern Performance Studies at the University of Exeter, specializing in the history of performance with a focus on performance technologies and questions of embodiment. This focus is particularly reflected in two of her recent publications, namely *Shakespeare, Spectatorship and the Technologies of Performance* (CUP, 2020), which takes a phenomenological approach to performance and spectatorship, and *Viral Shakespeare: Performance in the Time of Pandemic* (CUP, 2021) which examines digital spectatorship of 'viral' Shakespeare productions during the 2020 Covid-19 lockdowns. Her current research focuses on Shakespeare and Peele's *Titus Andronicus* and explores how the play resonates in today's decolonial environment marked by migration, imperial and religious conflict, and sexual violence.

Penelope Geng is Associate Professor of English at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minneapolis, where she works on early modern literature with particular interests in Shakespeare, legal culture, religion, and disability studies. Her first book *Communal Justice in Shakespeare's England: Drama, Law, and Emotion* (UTP, 2021) investigates the quotidian dimension of Renaissance legal practice, focusing in particular on how theatrical performance fostered a culture of participatory justice. Building on this work, her current project, *Disabled by Law*, examines how seventeenth-century property law shaped modern understandings of able-minded citizenship and how literary texts contest this ideology. She is also the co-convener of "Uncommon Bodies," a workshop dedicated to disability theory and pedagogy.