

“THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX”

EFL-Teacher Professional Development 2024-2025

Justice and Racial Discrimination
in *The Merchant of Venice* and *Othello*

Prof. Arturo Cattaneo

3rd April 2025

15.00-18.30



Per iscrizioni: <https://forms.gle/LgRKTuQoMuRXHg9h8>

Codice identificativo SOFIA 98138

Seminario organizzato in collaborazione con **Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore** e **Mondadori Education**

La partecipazione è gratuita



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Quest'anno i seminari si svolgeranno **IN PRESENZA** nella Sala Ipogea della Mediateca Montanari, Piazza Pier Maria Amiani a Fano.

I seminari saranno anche l'occasione per incontrarsi, per conoscere e parlare con i relatori, per scambiare idee ed opinioni con colleghi, per visionare i libri delle case editrici.

Al termine del seminario, i docenti presenti riceveranno l'attestato di partecipazione cartaceo.

La Sala Ipogea ha una capienza limitata quindi **per poter partecipare si consiglia di prenotare il posto al più presto**, attraverso il link di iscrizione qui sotto:



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Anche i docenti iscritti su SOFIA sono pregati di compilare la Google Form per perfezionare l'iscrizione:

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Justice and Racial Discrimination in *The Merchant of Venice* and *Othello*

Shakespeare's two Venetian plays are notable, among other things, for being centred on a problem of racial discrimination. This was not the main reading of the plays until well into the nineteenth century but has become increasingly so in modern times. Shakespeare's dealing with a racial problem clearly emerges from the text, as well as from the Venetian context of the stories. An interesting angle on the racial problem is also that until World War II the role of Othello was generally denied to black actors in Britain and especially in the USA, being subsequently associated with the struggle against racist oppression.

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Arturo Cattaneo



Arturo Cattaneo is Full Professor of English Literature at the Catholic University of Milan. He did post-graduate research at the Warburg Institute, London, on the influence and transformations of the classics in the English Renaissance; in this field, he has written several essays, a book on the Earl of Surrey (*L'ideale umanistico. Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey*), and a book-length study of the first English translations of the *Aeneid* (*Tecniche traduttive nell'Umanesimo: l'Eneide in Gran Bretagna*). His research interests also include the eighteenth-century English novel, Anglo-Italian cultural relations (*Chi stramalediva gli Inglesi. La diffusione della letteratura inglese e americana in Italia tra le due guerre*), and Caribbean literature.

In 2019 he published *Shakespeare e l'amore* (Einaudi), a book on *Romeo and Juliet*, *Othello* and the *Sonnets*. His high school and university manuals include *A Short History of English Literature* (Mondadori Università, 2019) and a series of English Literature Anthologies published by Signorelli (the latest is *Literary Journeys. Connecting Ideas*, 2024).



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Arturo Cattaneo



Since 2009 he is one of the organizers of the annual seminars of “Giustizia e Letteratura” at the Catholic University of Milan, to which he has contributed several essays on English authors and works.

He has translated into Italian a collection of Iosif Brodskij’s English essays (*Profilo di Clio*, Adelphi, 2003) and Charles Simic’s *Dime-store Alchemy*, on the art of Joseph Cornell (*Il venditore d’immagini*, Adelphi, 2005). He is also the author of short stories and two novels: *Ci vediamo a settembre* (Sedizioni, 2010) and *La notte inglese* (Mondadori, 2012).

His most recent publication is *Shakespeare in Hollywood* (Einaudi, 2024), on the shaping influence of Shakespeare on the art and industry of the cinema.

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