

**2016 Salzburg Easter School – PhD-Forum
in the context of the Salzburg Easter Festival 2016**

14-18 March, Salzburg University

**Doubles & Mirrors:
Aesthetics and Festival Futures**

“The Salzburg Easter School was a wonderful experience. In such a short time we received so very much!”

“Inspiring, educational, motivating to engage even more with the Arts”

“A unique chance to meet people and to make new friends.”

— Participant testimonies from the 2015 Salzburg Easter School

The persistence of doubling and pairing across Shakespeare’s œuvre occasions a wide spectrum of thematic and psychological configurations: from fierce antagonism to passionate love, from comic error to drastic failure and fiendish villainy. *Othello* holds a key role in this context: as the tragic hero succumbs to the antagonist’s evil machinations, the fiend and the lover become dangerously synonymous. As the action unfolds, their words begin to echo each other: as Iago suggests his intervention in Othello’s affairs comes from ‘too much loving’ the General, so Othello declares his fatal jealousy springs from loving Desdemona ‘too well’. According to Christian dogma, these ‘deadly sins’ of jealousy, lust, and wrath are each paired with the corresponding ‘heavenly virtues’ of kindness, purity, and forgiveness, qualities embodied in Shakespeare’s play by Desdemona and Emilia. While contrasting starkly in terms of class and role, each of these murdered wives mirrors the concerns of the other as they experience a striking sisterhood. In Verdi’s opera, Otello undergoes a spell of monstrous rage before experiencing a mystified love-death with the dying Desdemona, fulfilling the aesthetic conventions of the composer’s time and meeting opera audiences’ expectations. In critical theory, doubles and mirrors have held a crucial place in debates about identity formation and fragmentation: from Arnold van Gennep’s anthropological model to Lacan’s mirror stage, from nineteenth-century (pseudo-)scientific theories to postmodern discourses about self and Other.

In the context of the 2016 Easter-Festival production of Verdi’s *Otello*, the Salzburg Easter School offers PhD-students and advanced MA-students, as well as young artists, an international transdisciplinary forum in which to present their work in poster and oral presentations. Together we will discuss and debate the cultural and aesthetic significance of doubles and mirrors across academic and artistic disciplines.

We welcome proposals focusing on:

- forms of doubling and mirroring in Shakespeare’s tragedy and Verdi’s opera
- the role of doubles in historical and contemporary cultural and social contexts
- the fate of Shakespeare’s heroines as mirrors of tragic conflict
- doubling and mirroring as creative strategies in the arts (literature and stage art; visual art; music; cross-art)



TOP (L-R): Heinrich Schmidinger, President of Salzburg University © Eva Maria Griese / PhD-Students of the Salzburg Easter School 2014 / Peter Ruzicka © Anne Kirchbach / Florentine Klepper, Martina Segna, and Anna Sofie Tuma © Eva Maria Griese
 BOTTOM (L-R): Paolo Bressan © Brigitte Haid / *Pagliacci*, Salzburg Easter Festival 2015 / Salzburg Easter School 2014 / Sabine Coelsch-Foisner, Project Leader © Eva Maria Griese

The Salzburg Easter School is held on the premises of Salzburg University in cooperation with the Salzburg Easter Festival and aims to foster dialogue between the theory and practice of art. The programme combines PhD-presentations, seminars, workshops in festival management and discussions offered by Europe's cultural elite, including Peter Ruzicka (composer and artistic director of the Salzburg Easter Festival) and marketing expert Roland Ott. To ensure fruitful discussions and a maximum benefit, participants are expected to study *Othello/Otello* and read selected critical texts sent to them upon acceptance of their proposals.

The School also includes guided tours of the Autograph Collection of the Internationale Stiftung Mozarteum and Residenzgalerie Salzburg, a cultural tour of the city, and access to the Salzburg Easter Festival's cultural fringe, including the dress rehearsal of the opera production. Participants will obtain a certificate and a copy of their poster. The total cost amounts to €250, including coffee breaks and daily lunch. Accommodation with breakfast can be arranged by the organisers in Salzburg's historic city centre for €50 per night in a double room. In individual cases it may be possible to offer some support, but students are requested to seek funding from their home institutions. Participation is limited to 20 students.

If you are interested in presenting a poster and paper at the Salzburg Easter School, please submit your proposal (500 words), as well as a bio and motivation (together, 500 words), to Prof. S. Coelsch-Foisner at ATELIER_GESPRAECH@sbg.ac.at by **31 October 2015**.

Organised by:
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**OSTERFESTSPIELE
 SALZBURG 2016**
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 SÄCHSISCHE STAATSKAPELLE DRESDEN