

“THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX”

EFL-Teacher Professional Development 2022-2023



**Shakespeare vs Hitler:
Henry V and war propaganda in Laurence Olivier's
and Kenneth Branagh's films (1944, 1989)**

Prof. Arturo Cattaneo

20th April 2023

15.30-17.30

The seminar will be **ONLINE**. The link to participate will be sent via email before the seminar

Please register here: <https://forms.gle/y8cquZJo4YgA64zq9>



Shakespeare vs Hitler: **Henry V and war propaganda in Laurence Olivier's and Kenneth Branagh's films (1944, 1989)**

It is perhaps not so well known that the first scholarly Shakespeare Society in the world was neither British nor American but in fact German.

In German speaking countries the cult of Shakespeare ran so high that during both world wars the Bard was the object of a cultural tug-of-war between Germany and Britain. In World War II it seemed perfectly natural for the UK that its most ambitious film of war propaganda should be a version of *Henry V* (1944), directed by the greatest Shakespearean actor, Laurence Olivier.

It was nothing new: Shakespeare's plays had long been used as cultural weapons in real wars on both sides of the Atlantic, or to advance a political or a social cause.

More recently, Kenneth Branagh's *Henry V* (1989) was thought to reflect British ambivalence to military expeditions abroad, only a few years after the controversial Falklands conflict.

Per iscrizioni: <https://forms.gle/y8cquZJo4YgA64zq9>

La partecipazione al webinar è gratuita

Codice identificativo SOFIA 80936

Il link per partecipare al webinar sarà inviato via email all'indirizzo utilizzato per la registrazione

Per ulteriori informazioni: valentina.foschi@posta.istruzione.it

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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, besides several essays, a book on the Earl of Surrey (*L'ideale umanistico. Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey*, 1991) and a book-length study of the first English translations of the *Aeneid* (*Tecniche traduttive nell'Umanesimo: l'Eneide in Gran Bretagna*, 1990).



His research interests also include the eighteenth-century English novel (on which he has written a long essay, *True to the letter. Epistolary fact/fiction in the XVIII century*), Anglo-Italian cultural relations (a book on Mario Praz as writer and critic, *Il trionfo della memoria. La casa della vita di Mario Praz*, 2003, and *Chi stramalediva gli Inglesi. La diffusione della letteratura inglese e americana in Italia tra le due guerre*, 2007), Caribbean literature (essays in “Caribana”, 2, 1991: *Caribbean Verse: History of Literature as History in Literature*; and in “Journal of Caribbean Literatures”, Spring 2000: *Harris the Myth-Maker*).



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*, 2021).

Since 2009 he is one of the organizers of the annual seminars of “Giustizia e Letteratura” at Università Cattolica 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).