

## AFTER FOUR CENTURIES: SHAKESPEARE'S GHOSTLY SHADOWS

Pia Brînzeu  
West University of Timișoara

### ABSTRACT

The present essay tries to answer the question why Shakespeare is the inspiring source for an ever-increasing list of literary productions even four centuries after his death. He has been haunting readers and writers not only with his very little known life story but also with his texts, characters, even absent personages, which are all phantoms that challenge an ever increasing spectrum of creators to consider Shakespeare's drama as a great provocation. The analysis of these four types of spectres is meant to underline a multitude of issues: that attention should not only be focussed on Shakespeare's works, but also on their relationship with other texts; that contemporary writers enjoy "play-giarising" Shakespeare's texts and characters; that intertextuality makes Shakespeare's plays resemble subatomic electrons described by quantum physics as being simultaneously *particles* (closed, well-delimited units) and *waves* (open, permeable undulation, in permanent motion and change); and that phantasms are linked to *phantasia* or imagination, the hermeneutical instrument for reaching gnosis, for knowing the self, the world, and fictional myths.

**KEYWORDS:** adaptation, anxiety of influence, appropriation, ghosts, intertext, play-giarism, prod-users, quantum physics, Shakespeare the man, wreaders