

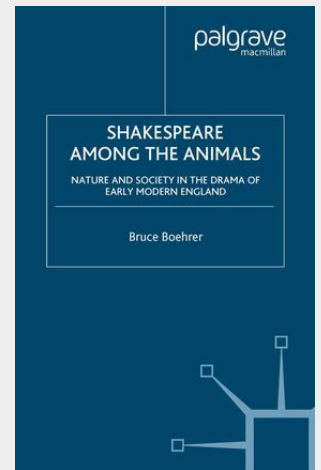
Boehrer

Shakespeare Among the Animals

Nature and Society in the Drama of Early Modern England

Shakespeare Among the Animals examines the role of animal-metaphor in the Shakespeare stage, particularly as such metaphor serves to underwrite various forms of social difference. Working through texts such as Shakespeare's *Midsummer Night's Dream*, Jonson's *Volpone*, and Middleton's *A Chaste Maid in Cheapside*, different chapters of the study focus upon the allegedly natural character of femininity, masculinity, and ethnicity, while a fourth chapter considers the nature of the natural world itself as it appears on the Renaissance stage. Addressing each of these topics in turn, *Shakespeare Among the Animals* explores the notions of cultural order that underlie early modern conceptions of the natural world, and the ideas of nature implicit in early modern social practice.

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