



From Pedestal to Ditch: Violence against Women in Shakespeare's *Othello*

First Folio at FIU



Sara Munson Deats,
Distinguished University Professor Emerita,
University of South Florida

The deleterious attitudes toward women inscribed in patriarchal ideology from prehistory to the present—the view of women as irrational, childish creatures who should be guided by their more rational, responsible male mates, the binary reduction of women to the Madonna/whore stereotype—all contribute to the epidemic victimization of women. All of these issues seem particularly relevant to Shakespeare's lacerating study of racism and sexism, *Othello*. But *Othello* exemplifies not only society's

negative assumptions about women, but also patterns of spouse abuse strikingly similar to those appearing in numerous statistical profiles of conjugal crime.

Deats is former Chair of the Department of English, Associate Dean of the Colleges of Arts and Letters and of the Graduate School, President of the Faculty Senate, and recipient of the Jerome Krivanek Award for Distinguished Teacher in the University. She is also former President of the Marlowe Society of America. She has published approximately 50 articles on Marlowe, Shakespeare, and the medieval and early modern drama in referred journals and anthologies, and was honored with the Gerald Watley Award for excellence in Popular Culture for an article on Zeffirelli's film *Romeo and Juliet*.

Tues., Feb. 9
11 a.m. — 12 p.m.

MARC Pavilion
Florida International University
Modesto A. Maidique Campus
11200 S.W. 8th Street
Miami, FL 33199

This event is part of FIU programming scheduled around the Folger Shakespeare Library's national traveling exhibition *First Folio! The Book that Gave Us Shakespeare*. First Folio at FIU is presented by the College of Arts, Sciences & Education, the Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum, and FIU Libraries. Folio at FIU sponsors include the College of Architecture + The Arts, FIU Foundation, Inc., Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs, Office of the President, Office of the Provost, Margarita P. Muiña, J.D., L.L.M., The Betsy-South Beach, Blue Martini, British American Business Council Miami, Dranoff 2 Piano Foundation, and Miami City Social. Sponsorship opportunities are available to support this exhibit's only appearance in Florida.

Learn more at folio.fiu.edu.

Center for Women's and Gender Studies

Modesto A. Maidique Campus | 11200 SW 8th St, DM 212, Miami, FL 33199
305-348-2408 | womenstudies.fiu.edu

FIU FLORIDA
INTERNATIONAL
UNIVERSITY