Like a number of other stage comedies and romances in the English Renaissance, Shakespeare’s Measure for Measure ends with a scene of judgment in which punishment and reward is distributed among a group of characters. One of the things that makes Measure for Measure's version striking is the way judgment is so insistently linked to the spatial and revelatory dynamics of facing and unmasking. Adducing evidence from humanist rhetoric, linguistic theory, and performance studies, this talk will show how the face stands at the crossroads of theatre and judgment, indexing their shared fields of location and duration and their common orientation toward the future.

Kevin Curran is professor of early modern literature at the University of Lausanne in Switzerland where he is also founding director of the Lausanne Shakespeare Festival. He is general editor of the book series “Edinburgh Critical Studies in Shakespeare and Philosophy” and the author of books and articles on Shakespeare and Renaissance drama including, most recently, Shakespeare’s Legal Ecologies: Law and Distributed Selfhood (Northwestern UP, 2017).

Wednesday 26 September @ 2.30pm
room C-3061 — 3150 rue Jean Brillant
Université de Montréal
DLMO, section études anglaises

[A reception will follow at 4pm in room C-8056]