This article examines the relationship between Shakespeare and Marlowe as it has been portrayed in biographical forms in the early twenty-first century. Just six months before the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, Katherine Duncan-Jones's biography of Shakespeare, entitled Ungentle Shakespeare, burst on the scene and the political landscape was as altered as the biographical renderings of the two playwrights. I begin my survey with a brief review of Duncan-Jones's book, before focusing on biographical works which followed hers to show how twenty-first-century biography has already re-written the relationship.
Her thesis, entitled ‘Writing Marlowe As Writing Shakespeare: Exploring Biographical Fictions’ was part creative and part critical, consisting of the 70,000 word verse novel The Marlowe Papers and 50,000 words exploring the Shakespeare authorship question; the first PhD on this subject in the UK. Dr Barber came originally from a science background, with a first degree in Biological Sciences. Her interest is in evidence and its interpretation, the influence of belief upon perception, the relationship between history and fiction, and literary biography. Open access policies mean that all of thes