

**11th international conference of ESSE (European Society for the Study of English),
Istanbul, 4–8 September 2012** (conference website: www.esse2012.org)

**Call for Papers
for the seminar**

""Turks of Tartary"? Images of Islam in Scottish Writing"

This seminar will explore the relationship between Islam and Scottish culture – a highly topical issue not only at a conference taking place in a city which straddles ‘East’ and ‘West’, but also in the context of current international debates about the role of multiculturalism, ‘East’/‘West’ connections and divisions, and the role of religion and secularism in politics, in an increasingly globalised world.

We will trace continuities and changes in the representation of Scottish East/West encounters from the time of the Crusades to Leila Aboulela, interrogating discourses that have ranged from the manifestation of hostility, cultural binarism and essentialism, to the envisioning of hybridity, solidarity and transculturalism. Key questions are: How have non-Muslim Scottish writers represented Islam and Muslims, both in Scotland and abroad? And how have Muslim writers (in Scotland and further afield) represented Scotland?

Examples of possible topics include: Othering in William Dunbar’s poetry (alluded to in the seminar title), images of ‘the East’ in Enlightenment philosophy and culture, Orientalism, travel writing, and assimilations of Scots into Islamic culture. Then there is also the question of Scottish (post)colonialism: Has Scotland’s own position as margin and ‘Other’ vis-à-vis Britain’s anglocentric mainstream engendered greater sympathy for cultural difference, and has Scotland’s ‘junior partnership’ in imperialism at the same time fostered complicity in colonial discourse?

The seminar should likewise address post-World-War-Two immigration, and the growth of African, Middle Eastern, and South Asian diasporic cultures in Scotland. How has Scotland positioned itself in the changing debates about multiculturalism and national identity in Britain as a whole – has its separate national identity given rise to specificities? And how have explorations of the relationship between religious, national and cultural identity intersected with issues of gender, race and class?

We welcome papers on any field of writing in the wider sense, i.e. not only including ‘literature proper’, but also journalism, screen-writing, and new media.

Seminar conveners:

Dr. Silke Stroh, Muenster University, Germany (silke.stroh@uni-muenster.de)

Prof. Manfred Malzahn, United Arab Emirates University (mmalzahn@uaeu.ac.ae)

Submission guidelines and planning procedures:

Papers should be up to 15 minutes long and should take the form of an oral presentation, rather than mere readings of finished essays.

Abstracts of proposed papers should be submitted to the seminar conveners by 31 January 2012.

Abstracts should be c. 200 words in length.

The selection process will be completed by 29 February 2012.

Once the programme has been finalised, abridged versions of accepted papers will be circulated among all speakers some time before the conference, to facilitate preparation for the seminar discussions.