

## The 10th ESSE Conference

The 10th ESSE conference will be held at the University of Turin from 24 to 28 August, 2010. We invite papers for a series of 3 seminars on

The Enemy Within: Cultures of Terror in South Asian Literature and Film

The seminars will explore contemporary ethnic, religious and gendered violence in South Asia, a theme that is all the more relevant in the aftermath of 9/11, the terrorist attacks in Bali and Mumbai and on the 20th anniversary of Ayatollah Khomeini's 'fatwa' on Salman Rushdie. The panel discussions will invite speakers to think beyond predominant vocabularies of political violence and the clash of civilisations in the wake of the US-led "war on terror". For such vocabularies are not only reactionary and objectionable, but they are also inadequate to address the complex and multiple histories of colonialism, secularism, nationalism, ethnicity and religion that underpin violence in South Asia.

South Asia has had a long history of violence and conflict, which demands a critical reassessment of the dominant discourse on terrorism:

revolutionary anti-colonialist movements, post-colonial secessionist uprisings, religious fundamentalism, gender conflicts, caste wars, 'racial' strife, ethnic struggles, regional conflicts, and terrorism.

We invite papers based on novels and films dealing with the following key topics:

- Martyrdom, Terrorism and suicide bombings: representations of violence and self-sacrifice in south Asian fiction and film
- Jihad, Religious fundamentalism, Islamophobia, Sectarianism
- State of emergency, State terrorism, Institutional terror and torture
- Divisions of territory and the self: representations of partition in South Asian fiction and film
- Nationalism (Hindutva, Sinhala, Tamil...), Civil War, Intifada, Refugees
- Exclusion, Resistance to post-colonial order, imperialism and globalization, Revolution (Naxalism, Dalit literature)
- Oppositional cinema as a tool for resistance and social mobilization

Papers should be roughly 20-minutes long, and they will be arranged into panel sessions on related topics by the convenors. A selection of the papers presented at ESSE will be published in a scholarly journal and in a refereed volume.

Submit abstracts of 250 words and a short biography in RTF format by 15th December 2009 to all three convenors:

Dr Stephen Morton, Senior Lecturer, University of Southampton at:  
s.c.morton@soton.ac.uk

Dr Pascal Zinck, Associate Professor, Université Lille3 at:  
cap.zinck@wanadoo.fr

Dr Veronica Thompson, Associate Professor, University of Athabasca at:  
thompson@athabascau.ca

Deadline for receipt of full articles is 30th June 2010.

Registration and accommodation details will be available from 1st March, see the links to the Contact information for the conference application form, downloadable at The ESSE - Turin website:

<http://www.unito.it/esse2010/home/index.php?contenuto=home>

Registration Deadline: 1st June 2010