

## Semester II

Second semester of Euroculture programme is more focused than the first semester. An important element in the second semester is the Methodology seminar (10 ECTS credits) and the Research seminars (8 ECTS credits).

### Research Seminars

In general the research seminar Europe in the wider world focuses on a selected number of cultural issues, which should lead to a better understanding of the establishment and development of cultural identities, cultural transformation processes perceived from within and outside of Europe as well as the impact of political and social processes on European culture(s). Each of the partner institutions links the European (and its various national) perspective(s) to another part of the world and vice versa. This has proven a most effective way to obtain better insight and knowledge of the role culture plays from a wider socio-political perspective.



**The topics to be studied in the seminar might vary per year, because these are chosen on the basis of current issues and the availability of expertise at each institution. The location of the institution also plays a role in deciding on the theme to be selected because it is assumed that the location of an institution has a certain influence on the perspective taken with regard to the themes involved. In these seminars students are further trained in independent research, building on the knowledge and skills of the methodology & theory seminar. This training will be extended when a student opts for the research track. In that case additional research seminars are to be taken to develop more in-depth knowledge about an issue and suitable research skills. European students have the possibility to continue the research track at one of the four third-country partner institutions to widen their perspective further.**



## Research Seminar I (Islam and the West)

The presence of Muslims in Europe as permanent residents was unimaginable for Europeans until the recent past. However, the third and fourth generations of Muslims are born and raised across the old continent today. According to census reports of local governments, 14% of the population in Amsterdam are Muslims, while the number in Antwerp is 16,9% and in Berlin 9%. The quarter of populations in Birmingham and Bradford in England are also Muslim according to numbers provided by local authorities. Rotterdam and London have Muslim mayors since 2009 and 2016 respectively. Many other cities across Europe has remarkably high numbers of Muslim population. Many Muslims in Europe are permanent residents or citizens of their countries and most stay in their country of residence for a lifetime.

The following are some of the questions that are broadly discussed during the semester:

- Are we today witnessing an unprecedented era in the relations between Islam and Europe?
- To what extent are the recent globally influential encounters and interactions between Europe and a large variety of Muslim actors a continuation of the past?
- Is the history of the relations between Europe worlds a story of conflict?
- In what areas did the two parties influence or contribute to each other's development?
- Are the Muslim refugees who flooded Europe in recent years a new phenomenon in the Old Continent?
- Does Turkey belong to Europe?
- How come London and Rotterdam have Muslim mayors, while non-Muslim mayors in Istanbul, Cairo, or Islamabad are inconceivable today?



## Research Seminar II (European Visual Culture)

**In the course of centuries the Western civilisation developed its distinctive visual culture. In spite of being influenced by Judaism and its prohibition to make images, early Christianity soon attributed images important role in religious life and instruction of the laity. Since then images became increasingly used (and abused) in European culture. Their use was not limited to religious or artistic functions only. On the contrary, images were involved in everyday life, communication or propaganda. The course aims at discussing changing approaches to images and will cover issues like: seeing and perception, sacred images and iconoclasm, images of the "others", knowledge in pictures, pictorial propaganda, advertisement. The course includes excursions to local museums and nearby sights.**