**Corpus approaches to discourse attitudes: The presentation of Islam and Muslims in the British press**

The talk will report on the main outcomes of the ESRC-funded project, *Presentation of Islam and Muslims in the UK press, 1998-2009.*It will also focus on the different corpus techniques used in the analysis, and comment on the merits and limitations of corpus approaches to discourse meaning. The project used a corpus of 143 million words, containing over 200,000 articles published in 12 national UK newspapers and their Sunday editions between 1998 and 2009. The analysis used corpus approaches, with the point of entry for the qualitative aspect of the analysis being the examination of the use of the words ‘Muslim(s)’ and ‘Islam’, as well as words used frequently in conjunction to them. The analysis revealed that Islam is treated predominantly as an ideology, rather than a religion. Similarly, the adjective *Muslim* is associated more frequently with issues of governance (e.g. politics, law) than with issues of religion. Irrespective of the stance projected in particular articles or newspapers, the discussion of Islam and Muslims in the UK press is, overall, carried out within contexts of armed/social conflict and/or terrorism, and the attendant issues of social disruption, violence, destruction and death.