

**‘Tools of the Sacred, Techniques of the Secular:
Awakening, Epiphany, Apocalypse and Doubt in
Contemporary English-Language Verse’**

Université Libre de Bruxelles

First Call for Papers

(Brussels, 4 to 7 May 2010)

This international four-day conference to be held in Europe’s capital city wishes to explore the multiple and changing forms of engagement with the sacred and reverence of the secular in English-language verse of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. In its cross-boundary coverage of contemporary verse in English reworking or denying dimensions of the ‘sacred,’ the conference will not privilege any Anglophone poetic tradition in particular. Instead, it invites papers exploring contemporary poetic voices from all areas of the English-speaking world, from North America and Europe to Asia and Australasia.

Although the Conference does not exclusively focus on ecocritical concerns, the programme will include several sessions devoted to the topic of ‘Eco-spirit’ and ‘ecopieties’ in contemporary verse in English. The First Call for Papers closes on 30 August 2009. The Second (and final) Call for Papers will close on 15 October 2009.

For further information and a full descriptive of the Conference objectives, please contact **Dr. Franca BELLARSI** at fbellars@ulb.ac.be