

**The East and West in Dialogue: 'Integrated' Representations of Muslims in Western Film and Television**  
*Muhammed Aksu*

Using the framework of transnational media and cultural studies, the thesis conducts a close analysis of selected Western films and television shows produced across a forty-year period that demonstrate the development of increased intercultural sensitivity between Westerners and Muslims. It examines the cultural 'work' that such representations perform, including the challenges and contradictions that can arise from attempts to positively represent a traditionally vilified geography and its peoples. Overall, the thesis explores how, over time, these representations have evolved in dialogue with the socio-political context. Ultimately, it values this dialogic process as a vital component of intercultural understanding.

*Dr Muhammed Aksu* is the Director of Bluestar in Canberra and has been previously worked in various roles in the school and educational sector. He has completed his thesis recently from the University of Western Australia.