



**LITERATURE IN ENGLISH SYMPOSIUM
21.04.2013**

**'I am an exile from heaven beating on its closed doors'¹:
Saints and Sinners: Postmodernism, Feminism and Medievalism in
Literature in English**

'I am a stranger in this world' says the nun, the narrator of a story of a forbidden book by Marguerite Porete. The year is 1340, thirty years after Marguerite was burned at the stake for writing and disseminating her heretical work, *The Mirror of Simple Souls*. The place is England, a Cistercian nunnery where she tells her story the night before her death, knowing that the book irretrievably changed but also shortened her life. But the idea of being a stranger in the world is not an uncommon one for many other Michele Roberts' characters.

From the early feminists to postmodern protagonists her novels rewrite medieval saints and sinners, Victorian mediums and contemporary visionaries, offering us new perspectives on well known stories and motifs. As **Michele Roberts** herself will be **our guest of honor**, her work is the inspiration for our 2013 Literature in English Symposium but we welcome papers about topics related to postmodern rewriting of history and culture as well as the feminist standpoint on both contemporary and earlier literature in English. Papers in other languages (German, French, Spanish) will also be considered. Selected papers will be published in SILiE (Peter Lang Verlag).

The deadline for abstract submissions is 5th February 2013. Please send your proposals and a short bio to dr Katarzyna Bronk (kbronk@wa.amu.edu.pl and bbronkk@gmail.com). More information at: <http://wa.amu.edu.pl/hla/>.

¹ The quotation comes from Michele Roberts *The Book of Mrs Noah* (1999: 125). London: Vintage.