

This paper attempts at analysing the employment of supernatural motifs in short fiction by (modern) Scottish writers. On the basis of analyses and comparisons of eight short stories it argues that Scottish authors are heavily influenced by the local tradition of oral narration and that they frequently resort to myths and folk- or fairy-tales to draw on. Moreover, the occurrence of supernatural beings in their short stories has often more serious objectives than mere entertainment. It serves as a contrastive background against which contemporary social issues stand out. This method of employment of fantastic motifs is not exclusive to Scotland, but has much in common e.g. with the Latin American magic realism.