



Iqbal International
Institute for
Research & Dialogue
International Islamic University Islamabad



Department of
Comparative Religion



Faculty of
Social Sciences

CALL FOR PAPER

2-DAY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

ISLAM AND THE WEST

Barriers and Bridges

13-14
DECEMBER
2023

At the dawn of the twenty-first century, the world witnessed unprecedented instability. Wars and cultural conflicts widened the gap between the various civilizations and sowed the seeds of hatred and violence. In fact, some of the incidents such as the terrorist attacks of 9/11, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the interminable conflict between Israelis and Palestinians have intensified tensions between the Islamic and Western worlds over the past few decades. The ramifications of these high-profile examples of a global state of affairs have accelerated polarization between Muslims and the West. Currently, gross misunderstandings, often taking violent forms, between the Muslim world and the West have become a serious threat facing societies worldwide. For instance, Islamophobic sentiments are observed in the West which find expression in senseless acts such as the burning of copies of the Qur'an and attacking Muslims to express hatred towards Islam. In today's globalized world, despite the advances in technology and mass communication, mass travel and the intermingling of races, relations between Islam and the West are growing. Islam, with its universal precepts of peace and respect for the dignity of all of humanity, is still the most misunderstood religion in the West. In our contemporary world, we still have not overcome orientalist narratives that posit the notion that Islam and the West are two civilizations locked in a bitter struggle for supremacy. This conception has led to misperceptions and suspicions on both sides. Consequently, extremists are fulfilling their agendas of promoting animosity, confrontation and violence at local, national, and global levels. The aim of this conference is to bring academics, researchers, professionals, experts and policymakers together on a single platform to discuss innovative ideas, best practices and policies for eradicating barriers, and finding the potential common grounds to build bridges of understanding to promote respect, fraternity, and dialogue between Islam and the West.



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THEMES OF THE CONFERENCE

- Islam and the West in World History
- Narratives of Relations between Islam and the West
- Globalization, Islam, and the West (Homogenization and Hegemonization)
- Common Interests and Common Threats to Islam and the West
- Revisiting the “Clash of Civilizations” Thesis
- Role of Intellectuals/Scholars
- Islam and the West in the Mass Media
- Major Political/Geo-political Issues
- Islamophobia in the West,
- Role of Western Think Tanks
- Islam and Modernity
- Impact of the Global War on Terror
- Role of Religious Leaders
- Role of National and International Organizations
- Global Youth and their Role in Interfaith/Intercultural Harmony
- The Media's Role in Building Understanding
- The Role of International Relations and Diplomacy
- Demography, Migration and the Future
- Contemporary Socio-economic Issues
- Strategies to Eradicate Barriers and Build Bridges

Abstracts of 250-300 words are invited on the above themes. The abstracts along with bio of the authors may be sent at the following email on or before the closing date:

Email 1:

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Email 2:

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Focal Person:

Dr Maryam Siddiq

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PROPOSAL SUBMISSION DEADLINE

October 25, 2023

NOTIFICATION OF ACCEPTANCE/REJECTION

November 07, 2023

FINAL PAPER SUBMISSION DEADLINE

December 01, 2023

CONFERENCE DATES

December 13-14, 2023

VENUE

Quaid-e-Azam Auditorium, IIUI



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