

ASSOCIATION OF MUSLIM SOCIAL SCIENTISTS (UK)

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO.1 • AUTUMN 1999

Advancing Muslim Scholarship: The AMSS (UK)

IN DECEMBER 1996, a seminar was held at the Oxford Academy for Advanced Studies on the subject of Muslim graduate studies in the West. Attended by many Muslim academics and scholars, it was to be a catalyst for the formation of a new organisation—the Association of Muslim Social Scientists (UK)—dedicated to the promotion of the Islamic perspectives in various academic disciplines.

At the time, the Association of Muslim Social Scientists in the United States was celebrating its twenty-fifth anniversary. Its refereed journal, *The American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences* (AJISS)—a leading academic journal published in co-operation with the International Institute of Islamic Thought (IIIT)—was about to launch its fourteenth volume. A similar association had also been running for over six months in Germany.

The participants in the 1996 Oxford seminar felt that such an association was urgently needed in the UK, as an increasing number of British Muslim students and scholars were specialising in the social sciences and humanities. Indeed, while ten years ago there was only a handful of Muslim social scientists among the teaching staff of British universities and institutes (mainly in

the departments of Arabic or Islamic Studies), their number is rapidly increasing. There is also a steadily growing Muslim participation in the social services and legal institutions, amongst others.

A body was therefore needed that would provide a platform for Muslim social scientists to come together, exchange their creative insights and ideas, and promote among themselves a spirit of co-operation and understanding that might generate and advance scholarly Islamic thought through critical and scientific inquiry. The aim was also to encourage debate among these scholars, and urge them to develop Islamic viewpoints on their particular academic disciplines, so that they do not remain mere consumers of knowledge but—like their predecessors—reach the cutting-edge of academic discourse. This forum is not exclusive to Muslim social scientists, but is open to all those who are interested in pursuing research and study in the social sciences from an Islamic perspective.☞

If you would like more information regarding the association or to become a member please contact: AMSS (UK), P.O. Box 126, Richmond, Surrey TW9 2UD. Tel: 0181-948 5166 ext.282, Fax: 0181-940 4014.

First Annual Conference of the AMSS (UK)

30–31 OCTOBER 1999

LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

The programme of the First Annual Conference of the AMSS (UK) has been carefully structured to bring a wide number of Muslim social scientists, representing a diverse range of disciplines, together under one roof to initiate the beginnings of a dialogue. The underlying objective has been to generate discussion and explore issues in the various disciplines represented with a view to opening up new and valuable channels for discussion and inquiry.

Speakers at the conference will be Lord Ahmed of Rotherham, Prof. Zaki Badawi, Prof. Sulayman Nyang, Prof. Khurshid Ahmad, Maleiha Malik, Dr. Riad Nourallah, Dr. Yahya Michot, Dr. Sophie Gilliat-Ray, Dr. Ahmed Mustafa, T.J. Winter, Dr. Zahraa al-Zeera, Dr. Haifaa Jawad, Dr. Jabal Buaben, Dr. Hiba Aziz, Dr. Imran Alawiye, Dr. Nasim Butt, Dr. Mohamed Mukadam, Halim Kockuzu, Sameera Mian, Fuad Nahdi, Dr. Anas al Shaikh-Ali, Dr. Abdelwahab el-Affendi, Ismail Ibrahim, Fadi Ismail, Mehmet Asutay, Dr. Suleman Dangor, Dr. Bustami Khir, Dr. Muhammad Surty, Tarek el-Diwany, Dr. Abdelkader Chachi, Wolf Aries, Sohail Nakhoda, Sarah Joseph, Dr. Talip Kucukcan, Dr. Ahmet Davutoglo, Dr. Yasin Dutton, Dr. Mawil Izzi Dien and Dr. Bobby Sayyid.☞

Sociology of Religion Study Group

Since its foundation in 1975 the Study Group has become the second largest discipline Study Group within the British Sociological Association (BSA). Its annual four-day conferences attract a wide range of specialists in contemporary religious issues and the sociology of religion. Conferences attract not only internationally renowned scholars in the field, but increasingly young academics and post-graduate students. The Study Group would like to hear from Muslim scholars in the field who are interested in becoming members of the Study Group.☞

For more information contact:
Dr. Sophie Gilliat-Ray
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University of Wales Cardiff
Humanities Building
Colum Drive, Cardiff CF10 3EU
gilliat-rays@cardiff.ac.uk

Social Scientists in Germany

The GMSG Association of Muslim Social Scientists in Germany is an independent charitable NGO with headquarters in Cologne. Founded in May 1996, with the support of the Muslim Studenten Vereinigung in Deutschland. Dr. Taha Jabir Alwani (President, School of Islamic Social Sciences) and the Academic Adviser of IIIT's London Office became their international advisers. The Association, whose first president was the late Professor Abdeljavad Falaturi, has already organised seminars and conferences on various topics, including Islamic Identity in Europe; Education in German Schools; Islamic Sciences in

Turkey; and Representation of Muslims in Germany. It has also organised workshops on the media, public relations and also has a bi-annual Newsletter. ☞

For more information contact:
AMSS Germany
P.O. Box 600 269
50682 Cologne, Germany

Conference in Azerbaijan

A conference for Muslim Social Scientists was organised in Baku, Azerbaijan on 15-16 September 1998 in co-operation with the IIIT (London Office) and the Centre for Social Change in Baku. It was the first ever such seminar for social scientists, and was organised under the auspices of the Deputy Prime Minister, Dr. Ezzat Ramanov and the Minister of Education, Misir Mardanov. The conference was held at the headquarters of the Centre for Islamic Studies in Baku.

A number of papers were presented: 'The Development of Philosophical Science in Azerbaijan Before and After Independence' (Prof. Ali Abasov, Director of the Institute of Philosophy and Law at the Azerbaijan Academy of Science); 'The Teaching of History in Institutes of Higher Education in Azerbaijan' (Prof. Rafiq Radjabov, Chairman of the Association of Scientists of Azeri History); 'Islamic Education in Azerbaijan' (Prof. Gunduz Sarieve); 'The Intellectual Crisis and the Islamisation of Knowledge' (Dr. Anas al Shaikh-Ali, IIIT, London); 'The Contribution of Azeri Scholars to Islamic Civilisation' (Dr. Mehmet Ali, Deputy Rector of Kafkaz University in Baku); 'Intellectual and Cultural Development in Azerbaijan Before and After Independence' (Prof. Akif Hasanov); 'A Critique of the Attempt to Globalise the Social Sciences' (Dr. Ahmad Davutoglu, Istanbul); and 'The Influence of Religious Stories on Azeri Poetry' (Dr. Aida K. Zadeh).☞

Centre Launches Journal of Qur'anic Studies

The new *Journal of Qur'anic Studies* has been launched by the Centre for Islamic Studies (SOAS). The Journal aims to encourage and promote the study of the Qur'an from a wide range of scholarly perspectives. The Journal publishes articles in English and Arabic, together with shorter items of comment, correspondence, and information on developments in Qur'anic studies and book reviews.☞

For information contact:
Prof. M.A.S. Abdel Haleem,
Journal of Qur'anic Studies,
Centre of Islamic Studies
SOAS, Thornhaugh Street
Russell Square
London WC1H 9XG
ha4@soas.ac.uk

American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences

The new Summer 1999 issue includes:
'Who is the Founder of Psychophysics and Experimental Psychology' – Omar Khaleefa
'Islamization of the Curriculum' – Rosnani Hashim
'Sirat al-Mustakim and Hikam: A Qur'anic View of Socioeconomic Behavior, Economic Discourse and Method' – Muhammad Akram Khan
'Islamic Economics: The State of the Art' – Muhammad Akram Khan

For subscription information contact:
AJISS, P.O. Box 669
Herndon, VA 22070
USA

Events

27 October 1999

Seminar. 'Sufism' by Dr. Martin Lings. Organised by the Centre of Islamic Studies, SOAS. Tel: 0171-323 6297; cis@soas.ac.uk

1-4 November 1999

Conference. 'Cross-Cultural Currents in the Mediterranean: What Prospects' Organised by Wilton Park, Malta. <http://www.wiltonpark.org.uk/>

3 November 1999

Seminar. 'The Writing Down of the Qur'an' by Salwa El-Awa. Organised by the Centre of Islamic Studies, SOAS. Tel: 0171-323 6297; cis@soas.ac.uk

Seminar. 'Babar's Cultural Personality' by Prof. Stephen Dale. Organised by the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies, Oxford. Tel: 0171-323 6297; cis@soas.ac.uk

10 November 1999

Seminar: 'Muslim Architecture, ethics and the Public Context' by Prof. Azim Nanji. Organised by the Centre of Islamic Studies, SOAS. Tel: 0171-323 6297; cis@soas.ac.uk

Seminar. 'The Mughal Empire in the Bengali Literary Tradition' by Prof. T. Raychaudhri. Organised by the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies, Oxford. Tel: 0171-323 6297; cis@soas.ac.uk

15-18 November 1999

Conference. 'Islam and the West in the 21st Century'. Steyning, West Sussex. <http://www.wiltonpark.org.uk> Tel: 01903-815 020

17 November 1999

Seminar. 'Islam in South Asia: Local Context and Vernacular Expression' by Prof. Azim Nanji. Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies, Oxford. Tel: 0171-323 6297; cis@soas.ac.uk

17-18 November 1999

Conference. 'Geography and the natural sciences in Islamic manuscripts'. Organised by Al-Furqan Foundation, London. Tel: 0181-944 1633

21 November 1999

Gent, Belgium. 2nd Day of Equal Rights Theme: 'Islam in the Schools in Flanders'. Organised by FoGI vzw, Astrid Casteels. Tel/Fax: +32 (0)9 2222551 or

24 November 1999

Seminar: 'Unity and Diversity' by Prof. Zaki Badawi. Organised by the Centre of Islamic Studies, SOAS. Tel: 0171-323 6297; cis@soas.ac.uk

Seminar. 'Mysteries of an Islamic Cemetery in Makran' by Dr. G.G. Filippi. Organised by the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies, Oxford. Tel: 0171-323 6297; cis@soas.ac.uk

27 November 1999

Seminar. 'Impact of the Hadith on the Development of Islamic Jurisprudence' by Dr. Taha Jabir Alwani. Organised by the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies, Oxford. Tel: 0171-323 6297; cis@soas.ac.uk

1 December 1999

Seminar. 'European Scholarship on Islam in the South Asian Colonial Context' by Dr. A. Powell. Organised by the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies, Oxford. Tel: 0171-323 6297; cis@soas.ac.uk

2-4 December 1999

Conference. Sixth Annual Congress of the German Middle East Studies (DAVO). Hamburg, Germany www.geo.uni-mainzde/davo

8 December 1999

Seminar: 'Forced/ False Marriages' by Ruqaiyyah W. al-Maqsood. Organised by the Centre of Islamic Studies, SOAS. Tel: 0171-323 6297; cis@soas.ac.uk

9-10 December 1999

Symposium Europa-Maghreb. 'The intercultural dialogue and "modernity" in the Maghreb and Europe'. Organised by CIDOB (Barcelona) and Dept. of Comparative Culture Studies (CICI), Ghent. University of Gent, Belgium. Hendrick.pinxten@rug.ac.be

13-16 December 1999

Conference. 'Forging an International Consensus to Ensure Compliance with Non-Proliferation Regimes'. Steyning, East Sussex. <http://www.wiltonpark.org.uk> or Tel: 01903-815 020

22-16 March 2000

'First Mediterranean Social and Political Research Meeting'. Organised by the Mediterranean Programme Robert Schuman Centre. University Institute, Florence, Italy. svantess@iue.it

27-18 April 2000

Conference. 'Religious Polemics in Context'. Organised by the Leiden Institute for the Study of Religions. Avdkooij@cit10.wsd.leidenuniv.nl

10-12 May 2000

Conference: 'Arbitration in the Arab States and the Shariah'. Organised by the Centre of Islamic Studies, SOAS. Tel: 0171-323 6297; cis@soas.ac.uk

3-6 July 2000

'Fourth Symposium on Language and Society in The Middle East and North Africa (MENA)'. University of Edinburgh, Scotland EIASIME@ed.ac.uk

10-13 July 2000

'Literature and Nationalism in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA)'. University of Edinburgh, Scotland. Deadline for registration is 15 December 1999. EIASIME@ed.ac.uk

Useful Websites

EURAMES

<http://129.177.211.69/smi/eurames/eurahome.html>

The Middles East Studies Center, University of Ghent

<http://allserv.rug.ac.be/~sdconic/CTWS/MESC/>

Journal of Middle East Studies (MIT EJMES)

<http://cis-server.mit.edu/mideast/>

International Institute for the Study of Islam in the Modern World

<http://isim.leidenuniv.nl>

The *ISIM Newsletter* is a tri-annual publication of the International Institute for the Study of Islam in the Modern World covering the activities concerning the study of Islam and Muslim societies. The newsletter is available free of charge. Please contact them and ask to be placed on their mailing list.☞

AMSS (USA) 28th Annual Convention

The 28th Annual Convention of the Association of Muslim Social Scientists of North America will be held between 29–31 October 1999 in Leesburg, Virginia, USA. The convention will bring together leading Muslim scholars and panel sessions will tackle a variety of subjects such as Islam in America, American Muslims and American Foreign Policy, Islam and Women, and Islamic Political Economy.

Some of the papers to be presented at the conference include, among others, 'American Pakistani Activism' (Salahuddin Malik); 'Psychological Aspects of Child Development' (A. Abu Sulayman); 'Metatheory and Methodology' (Dilnawaz Siddiqui); 'Critical Thinking' (Fathi Melkawi); 'Critical Theory' (Muqtedar Khan); 'Challenging Media Representations of the Veil' (Katherine Bullock); 'Deconstructing Islamic Identity: Engaging Multiple Discourse' (Jasmine Zine); 'Muslim Women and Political Activism in America' (Deonna Kelli) and 'Islamic Political Economy' (Masud Alam Choudhury).☞

For information contact:
AMSS 1999, P.O. Box 669
Herndon, VA 20172, USA
Fax: (703) 471-3922
Email: ajiss@yahoo.com

Islam & Peace

The Islam and Peace Seminar will be held in January 2000 in the USA. It seeks to explore Islamic discourses that promote peace and non-violence. Those who are interested in presenting papers or acting as discussants may submit their requests to the seminar coordinator: Dr. Karim Crow, Islamic Peace Forum, 4545 42nd St. NW #209, Washington D.C. 20016, USA. Tel: 202-244-0951
Email: nonviolence@igc.apc.org

BRISMES Conference

Brismes conference next year will be hosted by the University of Cambridge. It will be held between 2–5 July 2000. The main conference theme will be 'Writing the Middle East', and the organisers welcome individual and panel submissions pertaining to the following themes: Islamic Studies; Politics and International Relations; History; Historiography; Anthropology and Cultural Studies; Nationalism; Ottoman History; Topographies in Literature and Philosophy and Law.

The organisers declare their intent to vet all submissions. They suggest that potential participants submit an abstract or a proposal for a panel by 31 January 2000. During the conference there will be a book exhibition and the BRISMES Annual General Meeting.☞

BRISMES 2000, Centre for Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, University of Cambridge, Faculty of Oriental Studies Sidgwick Av., Cambridge CB3 9DA

Bosnian Manuscripts

On 17 May 1992 the Oriental Institute in Sarajevo was attacked by Serb nationalist forces. Virtually all of its contents were consumed by the flames, including 5,263 manuscripts in Arabic, Persian, Turkish, Hebrew and local *alhamijado*, as thousands of Ottoman-era documents. As a substantial part of its collection was sent or taken abroad in the form of microfilms or photocopies the Institute staff members are currently building a database of all copied materials outside Bosnia to help 'rebuild' their collections. Friends and colleagues who possess or know of the whereabouts of any such microfilms or photocopies anywhere in the world are therefore urged to contact Andras Riedlmayer, Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture, Harvard University, 32 Quincy St., Cambridge MA 02138, USA. Tel: (617) 495-3372; riedlmay@fas.harvard.edu

Islam in America

A Seminar or a series of seminars are planned to develop a comprehensive research program on the theme 'Islam in America'. Soon a working paper identifying the research areas and needs will be published here. Based on the working paper, which will list a series of research questions, a seminar and subsequently a special issue of the *American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences* will be published.☞

For details contact:
Dr. Ilyas Bayunus, SUNY, Cortland
4339 Alexandria Dr., Cortland
NY 13045, USA

Scholars Gather in Tatarstan

A conference similar to the one held in Azerbaijan (see p.2) took place in Tatarstan on 3 June 1999 at the Academy of Sciences, Kazan. Those attending the conference included Dilyara Shakirova (Rector of the Tatar-American Regional College); Prof. Rinat Nabiev (Council for Religious Affairs); Valiulla Yagkub (Deputy Mufti); Mirza Makhmoutov (Academy of Sciences); Dr. Rafik Moukhametshin (Islamic Research Centre); and Dr. Raphael Khakimov (Adviser to the President of Tatarstan). Dr. Anas al Shaikh-Ali (IIIT, London) also gave a talk on the Islamisation of Knowledge. Almost one hundred social scientists, academics and postgraduate students attended the conference.☞

If you would like any information regarding academic news, seminars, conferences, or new and forthcoming books, to be included in the newsletter, please send it to:

AMSS NEWSLETTER
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