



UNIVERSITÉ DE FRIBOURG
UNIVERSITÄT FREIBURG

SCHWEIZERISCHES ZENTRUM
FÜR ISLAM UND GESELLSCHAFT
CENTRE SUISSE ISLAM ET SOCIÉTÉ

International Conference

Islamic Social Work?

From Community Services to Commitment to the Common Good

(Fribourg/Switzerland, 11./12.9.2019)

The Swiss Center for Islam and Society (SCIS) at the University of Fribourg Switzerland organises annual international conferences with the support of the Mercator Foundation Switzerland. Linked with the postgraduate programme “Islam and Society: Islamic-Theological Studies” of the SCIS the multidisciplinary conferences focus on topics that lie at the interface of Islamic-Theological Studies and social issues. Hence, graduate and postgraduate students of related disciplines as well as practitioners are highly encouraged to participate at the conferences.

The 2019 conference will address issues of *Islamic social work* which is indeed not only a field of action and debate in the context of different welfare regimes, but also an expanding subject of academic research. Speakers will attend at the invitation of the SCIS. In addition, a call for posters will be organised for the conference.

Muslim groups and organisations respond to the needs of their members by offering consultation services, childcare, educational programmes, spiritual care and material assistance, especially in migration contexts. Although in many cases these activities can be characterised as a community-oriented help, more often than not, they go beyond the boundaries of Muslim communities to benefit society as a whole. Muslim actors are also starting to professionalise their services and to negotiate the ways in which they can become fully recognised service-providers within the welfare state. In contrast to the widespread processes of secularisation of social work and its separation from religious communities, new types of activities are now emerging, which bring back to the public arena both an increased sensitivity to the religious identities of the beneficiaries and the religious motivations of the benefactors. This development raises a myriad of theoretical and empirical questions.

11.09.2019 (17.00-19.00h)

Public lecture (*in French*)

« Face à la radicalisation : Contre-discours et action sociale islamiques »
(Facing Radicalization: Islamic Counter-Speech and Social Work)

- Dr. Mohamed Bajrafil, Paris
- Prof. Dr. Michel Younès, Lyon Catholic University

12.09.2019 (8.45-18.00h)

Keynote : Islamic Social Work as a Contribution to the Common Good

What is the relationship between social commitment and religious motivations from Muslim actors' perspectives? How can Islamic ethics contribute to argue for general human objectives like justice and the common good?

- Prof. Dr. Serdar Kurnaz, University of Hamburg
The Maqāṣid-cum-maṣlaḥa Approach as Theological Basis of Islamic Social Work – A Critical Analysis and an Alternative Proposal
- **Response:**
Dilwar Hussain, New Horizons- Coventry University, London

Panel 1: Islamic Social Work in (Post-) Secular Spaces

How is Islamic social work linked to the mainstream social work provided by the State and other non-profit organisations? Can Muslim social work go beyond the conventional models to develop a *different* social work (Epple/Schär 2015) or, as alternatively labelled, a *critical* social work based on “critical reflection and deconstruction/reconstruction, problematization and research, narrativity, and contextuality” (Fook 2015: 287)?

- Ass. Prof. Dr. Daniel Verba, Sorbonne Paris 13 Cité University
Social Work through the Prism of the Religious Facts: Islam in Questions
- Prof. Dr. Sara Ashencaen Crabtree, University of Bournemouth
Islamic Social Work – A Potential Response to Marginalisation

Panel 2: Field of Action: Youth and Family

What is the contribution of Muslim actors in different fields? To what extent do their services meet the needs of their clients? What are the major deficiencies, what are the major obstacles? How can professionalization and volunteering go hand in hand? How can Muslim social work promote self-esteem of its clients while avoiding the emergence or reinforcement of *solitaristic* religious identities (Sen 2006)?

- Dr. Aylin Yanik-Şenay, Cologne
Family Counselling as a Field of Islamic Social Work

- Dr. Abdullah Sahin, University of Warwick
Human Dignity, Common Good and Social Welfare: towards an Islamic Relational Social Ethics

Panel 3: Field of Action: Exclusion and Resocialization

What is the contribution of Muslim actors in different fields? To what extent do their services meet the needs of their clients? What are the major deficiencies, what are the major obstacles? How can professionalization and volunteering go hand in hand? How can Muslim social work promote self-esteem of its clients while avoiding the emergence or reinforcement of *solitaristic* religious identities (Sen 2006)?

- M.A. Baptiste Brodard, University of Fribourg
Helping the Muslims or Contributing to Society? Insight into the Paradoxes of Islamic Social Work in the Field of Exclusion

- Dr. Lamia Irfan, SOAS London
The Religious Community- A Space that Facilitates Successful Resettlement for Muslim Offenders

Panel 4: Towards a Practical Theology in Islam

How can social services contribute to the development of an Islamic practical theology and under which circumstances can the latter lead to a *nativization* of Islam in Europe? How can it avoid centrifugal effects of transnational networks while remaining connected to the wider Muslim world?

- Dr. Nazila Isgandarova, University of Toronto
“Epistemic Weight” of Praxis in the Production and Teaching of New Knowledge in Islamic Practical Theology

- Prof. Dr. Tarek Badawia, University of Erlangen-Nuremberg
Islamic Practical Theology: A Socio-ethical and Interdisciplinary Approach

Team:

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For further information: www.unifr.ch/szig