

ASSOCIATION OF MUSLIM SOCIAL SCIENTISTS (UK)

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO.2 • 2000

EDITORIAL

Team Spirit

TEAM SPIRIT was one of the most outstanding features of the First AMSS (UK) Conference held at the LSE on 30-31 October 1999. Contributing largely towards both the organisational and public success of the conference this spirit was clearly evident not only amongst the working group and members of the Executive Committee but also amongst the representatives of the organisations that helped establish the association. Organisers, speakers and participants were all keen to help make the event a resounding success. It was also clear from the conference that both organisational and individual agendas were left at home and that all present interacted with one another in a lively atmosphere of warmth, energy and intellectual objectivity. No one wanted or tried to claim personal credit for the success achieved. There was not even a hint of 'friendly rivalry' between the individuals or organisations involved. Rather, there was a high degree of mutual trust and selflessness together with a real determination to promote this important venture, the first of its kind in the UK.

The encouraging feedback and messages of support received both during and immediately after the conference were a further testament to and factor in the conference's success. This made the Executive Committee feel more energised and committed to the extent that it decided to expand the team further by establishing an Advisory Board to work closely with the



Conference participants at the LSE

Committee. Here too the spirit of teamwork was in evidence, making new inroads and generating a new impetus to ensure that the AMSS maintained the success of its initial inauguration.

Such team spirit, emphasised in both the Qur'an and the Sunnah, has suffered serious decline in many Muslim circles, being displaced all too often by internal disputes and individualistic action. Rather than teamwork one usually encounters individuals and organisations competing bitterly with each other, sometimes with devastating consequences. Perhaps the conference's biggest achievement was to show that different organisations can work constructively together and that for any project to succeed a spirit of teamwork needs to dominate. However, successful teamwork seldom happens by chance. Needless to say, adequate planning and organisation is both an asset and an incentive; nevertheless some of the most important factors are commitment, dedication, selflessness, communication, and most importantly of all *good and sincere intentions*. ☞

AMSS (UK): Breaking New Ground

The First Annual Conference of the Association of Muslim Social Scientists (UK), held at the London School of Economics (30-31 October 2000), brought together almost 150 students, scholars and professionals from the social and human sciences covering a range of diverse topics such as Islamic economics, diplomacy, philosophy, sociology, fiction and calligraphy. About forty presentations and papers were delivered over the tightly scheduled two-day conference. Although this first conference was based on an 'Open Theme' coverage, the three workshops held on the second day attempted to initiate a more focussed approach concentrating on education, politics and media, with a fourth workshop allowing the presentation of a more varied subject matter from hermeneutics to insurance.

The keynote speech was delivered by Lord Ahmed of Rotherham who welcomed the creation of such Muslim forums for the development of Muslim scholarship. The inaugural lecture was given by Professor Sulayman S. Nyang (Howard University, USA). The first president of AMSS (USA), Prof. Nyang spoke of his colleague's efforts in promoting greater Muslim contribution in the social sciences in North America.

The conference provided an opportunity for Muslims to meet and exchange ideas whether in the same areas of specialisation or in different ones. It is the hope of the AMSS (UK) that out of these annual colloquia, specialists within disciplines coalesce to form their own workshops in order to maintain academic rigour and chart new research agendas and concerns. ☞



AMSS (UK) Advisory Board

The AMSS (UK) is forming an Advisory Board to act as a consultation body for its plans, projects and activities. Individuals who have agreed to be part of the Advisory Board are:

Dr. Abdelwahab el-Affendi; Lord Ahmed of Rotherham; Prof. Khurshid Ahmed; Prof. Muhammad Anwar; Dr. Roger Boase; Yusuf Islam; Dr. Mawil Izzi Dien; Prof. Muhammad Abdel Haleem; Dr. Bustami Khir; Prof. Tariq Modood; Dr. Ahmed Mustafa; Fuad Nahdi; Dr. Sophie Gilliat-Ray; Dr. Jeremy Henzell-Thomas; Baroness Pola Uddin. ☞

Islam & Society in the 21st-Century

The Association of Muslim Social Scientists (AMSS-USA) in collaboration with the *Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding (Georgetown University)* announces the 29th Annual AMSS Convention on the theme '**Islam and Society in the Twenty-First Century**', on 13-15 October 2000, Georgetown University, Washington DC.

Scholars are invited to submit papers/panel proposals in the following focus areas: Law and Morality, Education, Family Life, Issues in Development, Civil Society, Economics, The State, Globalization, Islamic Thought and Philosophy, Islam in America, Post-colonial Studies, and Gender Issues.

Deadline for Abstracts is 1 May 2000 and for Final Papers 1 July 2000. *For further information contact:* AMSSCONF@hotmail.com

Fax: 00-1-703/471-3922

Post: Attn: AMSS Conference, P.O. Box 669, Herndon, VA 20172, USA

For updated information on the conference visit the AMSS website at: <http://www.amss.org>

The Association of Muslim Social Scientists (AMSS-USA) is an international intellectual forum for Muslims in the humanities and social sciences and for non-Muslims who have academic interest in Islamic issues. ☞

Child Development Foundation

The Child Development Foundation is a newly-formed foundation aiming to research, publish and advocate ways and means to develop the spiritual, intellectual, social and physical well-being of children. It also aims to develop and disseminate parental guidelines for raising children, subject-specific curricula, extra-curricular activities, teaching materials, and scholarly literature, directed at advancing a comprehensive understanding of children's education and development.

The CDF is presently preparing a book on *Parent-Child Relations* in ten parts by Dr. AbdulHamid AbuSulayman and Dr. Hisham al-Talib. It is to be published in co-operation with IIIT. ☞

For more information please contact:
Child Development Foundation
1145 Herndon Parkway, Suite 500
Herndon, VA 20170, USA
Tel: 00-1-703-478-9222
Fax: 00-1-703-471-3922
cdf@childdev.net

Lectures at the Muslim College

The Muslim College was established in 1984 and offers courses in Islamic Studies in co-operation with Birkbeck College, University of London. Its forthcoming seminars include:

'Colonialism and Islamic Law'
by Dr. John Strawson
(University of East London)
Saturday 25 March 2000

'Ibn Taymiyya in the Philosophical
Tradition of Islam'
by Dr. Yahya Michot
(Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies)
Saturday 6 May 2000

Both lectures are to be held at the Muslim College. *For further information contact:* The Muslim College, 20-22 Creffield Road, Ealing, London W5 3RP UK. Tel: 0208-992 6636.

The British Journal of Middle East Studies

The new Editorial team of BJMES would like to increase the number of manuscripts being proposed for inclusion in this twice-yearly refereed journal. A full range of Middle Eastern topics are covered in each issue. The Editorial team is looking for submissions on subjects from medieval Islam to modern politics, political economy, international relations, literature, political philosophy and theology. The journal is also looking for additional reviewers for books. ☞

Editor, BJMES, Dept. of Arabic and Middle Eastern Studies, University of Leeds, Leeds LS2 9JT, UK
e-mail: i.r.netton@leeds.ac.uk

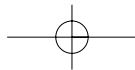
Free Copies

The Centre for the Study of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations has a stock of back issues of their journal *Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations* from vol.1 (1990) to vol.4 (1993), which will be sent free, apart from postage costs. If you would like to receive a set, please contact Carol Bebawi at the Centre:
Tel: 0121-415 2279; Fax: 0121-415 2297. ☞

Tolerance between Islam & Christianity

The Canakkale Onsekiz Mart University, Turkey is arranging a symposium on 'Respect and Tolerance between Islam and Christianity in the Texts of History and Literature' on 15-18 May 2000 at Canakkale, Turkey. *For further information contact:*

Professor Zeki Cemil Arda
Canakkale Onsekiz Mart University
Ilahiyat Fakultesi (Fac. of Theology)
Canakkale, Turkey
Tel: 00-90-286-213-0205
Fax: 00-90-286-212-2033
zekicemilarda@hotmail.com
<http://ilahiyat.comu.edu.tr>



Islamica

The new issue of the *Islamica* journal (vol.3, no.1, 1999) is out. Articles in the new issue include:

The Fall of the Family (Abdal Hakim Murad); *The Place of Tasawwuf in Islam* (Nuh Ha Mim Keller); *Social Justice: A Comparative Analysis of Western Philosophy and the Shari'ah* (Mohammad Hashim Kamali); *Authority: Divine or Qur'anic* (Taha Jabir al-'Alwani); *Between Wisdom and Reason: Aspects of 'Aql (Mind-Cognition) in Early Islam* (Karim Crow); *Second-Generation Islamists and the Future of the Islamic Movement: A Response to Shaykh Ghannoushi* (M.A. Muqtedar Khan); *Cybertariqas: Sufism in the Diaspora, Identity and Virtual Community* (Mark Bryson-Richardson); *The Jurisdiction of Classical Islam* (Husam el-Khatib) and *Developing a Cogent Criticism of Contemporary Islamic Calligraphy* (Mohamed Zakariya). ☞

Copies available from leading Muslim bookstores, or contact: Islamica, Islamic Society, London School of Economics, Students' Union, Houghton Street, London WC2A 2AE, UK
islamica@lse.ac.uk

South African AMSS

The Association of Muslim Social Scientists of South Africa held a workshop on 'Prenuptial and Postnuptial Counselling and the Marriage Contract' on Saturday 13 February 2000 at the Mariam Bee Islamic Centre in Durban. The workshop was organised by Dr. Suleiman Dangor and speakers at the seminar included Rehana Rawat, a family therapist, Attorney Shuaib Omar and Rukshana Dawjee, a marriage counsellor. This was the first programme organised by the newly formed AMSS South Africa. ☞

Borders, Orders and Identities

The University of Durham's International Boundaries Research Unit and

centre for Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies will convene a conference on 'Borders, Orders and Identities of the Muslim World' on 12-14 July 2000. The Muslim states are extensive and strategically located. Their political destiny in a rapidly changing world is critically important to the global community. It deserves the urgent attention of regional specialists, geographers, lawyers and other experts. ☞

For further information contact: International Boundaries Research Unit Suite 3P, Mountjoy Research Centre University of Durham Durham DH1 3UR, UK
Tel: 00-44-191-374-7705
Fax: 00-44-191-374-7702

American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences (AJISS)

The contents of the present AJISS special issue on Economics (vol.16, no.4, fall 1999) include: *Experimental Tests of the Homo Economicus* (Abdullah Yavas); *Socio-economic and Political Dynamics in Ibn Khaldun's Thought* (M. Umer Chapra); *Financing the Development of Awqaf Property* (Monzer Kahf); *War Industry and Unjust Distribution as a Global Problem* (Mustafa Köylü); *The Importance of Murabaha in Long-Term Finance Programs in the Banking Industry* (Yousif Ashour); *Is Rationalism Possible in the Muslim World?* (M. Umer Chapra). ☞

Symposium on Language and Society

Papers are invited for the 'Fourth Symposium on Language and Society in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA)'. Topics covered include: Language and gender; language and political conflict; language and ethnic/national identity; sociolinguistic aspects of language variation; language situation among immigration/diaspora communities; etc. The symposium will be held at the University of Edinburgh on 3-6 July 2000. For information

contact: Edinburgh Institute for the Advanced Study of Islam and the Middle East, 7-8 Buccleuch Place, Edinburgh EH8 9LW, Scotland. Fax: 013-650-6804
EIASIME@ed.ac.uk ☞

Institut Supérieur D'Études Civilisationnelles

A new research centre, the Institut Supérieur D'Études Civilisationnelles, has been established in France. The institute aims to conduct research in civilisational and Islamic issues through specialised conferences, seminars and publications. The ISEC is planning three seminars this year on education; contemporary Islamic thought; and dialogue between civilisations. It is also developing a small library on Islamic thought for the benefit of students and researchers. For more information contact:

Institut Supérieur D'Études Civilisationnelles (ISEC)
26 Rue Soubise
93400 Saint Ouen, France
Tel: 00-33-1-40-102446
Fax: 00-33-1-40-102447

Forthcoming Books by IIIT

CONTEMPLATION
An Islamic Psychospiritual Study
by MALIK BADRI
Combining the rich traditional Islamic wisdom with contemporary knowledge, the author advances a unique approach to the understanding of the human psyche and the self that gives a central position to meditation and contemplation as forms of worship in Islam.
152pp April 2000

A THEMATIC COMMENTARY ON THE QUR'AN
by SHAYKH MUHAMMAD AL-GHAZALI
In a complete volume, this commentary focuses on the organic unity of each surah highlighting its logical or inherent reasoning and unifying its various components and images.
800pp Summer 2000

