

FOURTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
ISLAMOPHOBIA

EXAMINING THE CULTURAL AND GEOPOLITICAL DIMENSIONS OF ISLAMOPHOBIA IN MUSLIM MAJORITY COUNTRIES

March 11-13, 2023

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Istanbul Sabahattin Zaim University - Halkalı Campus, İstanbul, Türkiye

Event on Campus: ISEFAM Auditorium

Off Campus Livestreaming: youtube.com/cigaistanbul

Fourth International Conference on Islamophobia

Examining the Cultural and Geopolitical Dimensions of Islamophobia in Muslim Majority Countries

Concept Note

Since at least the 1970s, global political actors have instrumentalized Islamophobia as a tool to advance their geopolitical objectives and consolidate their hegemonic policies across the Muslim world. In this context, the geopolitics of Islamophobia refers not only to its political, economic, and geopolitical dimensions, but also to its functional use as part of various strategic imperatives and tools employed by regional and global powers to advance colonialist objectives, empire expansion, authoritarian and corrupt rule, or narrow self-interest. In addressing this phenomenon, the Center for Islam and Global Affairs (CIGA) at Istanbul Sabahattin Zaim University (IZU) convened three international conferences over the last several years to discuss this challenge and its destructive impact, not only on Muslim societies and minorities around the world, but also its influence on global politics and international relations.

CIGA's first International Conference on Islamophobia, was organized in 2018 and featured some of the most notable international experts and scholars on the topic. It explored the impact of Islamophobia on culture, society, politics, and international relations. In the second conference in 2019, CIGA brought together some of the most renowned speakers from around the world in order to examine Islamophobia's role in diverse intellectual, cultural, and regional contexts, and analyze its discourse and geopolitical impact. In 2021, CIGA's third international conference examined the utilization of Islamophobia in the different manifestations of the so-called Global War on Terror, twenty years after it was launched in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks.

This year, CIGA, in cooperation with Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Center for Muslim Christian Understanding at Georgetown University in Washington DC, USA, the University of Lahore in Pakistan, the Universiti Malay in Malaysia, and the International Islamic University in Islamabad, Pakistan will convene in March 2023 the Fourth International Conference on Islamophobia with a clear focus on the utilization and instrumentalization of Islamophobia, its devastating effects, and resulting long term impact on society and politics in Muslim majority countries, particularly in reference to recent times. The use of Islamophobia as a tool by different regimes and political actors in the past few years in Muslim majority countries has been rampant for largely legitimizing their despotic rule and authoritarian systems. It has also been used as means to delegitimize certain political opposition groups in these societies, particularly in the aftermath of the Arab Spring phenomena, since religion has been playing a prominent role not only as a source of empowerment and change for the peoples in various Muslim societies, but also as a powerful inspirational force within civil society institutions.

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In this conference several topics related to the theme will be discussed. During the conference speakers will examine the roots and intellectual history of Islamophobia and anti-religion discourse in Muslim societies including in the Arab World, Türkiye, Iran, the Indian Subcontinent, and Southeast Asia. They will examine the impact of political, legal, cultural, and social factors, as well as the spread and proliferation of some social trends within Muslim societies such as atheism and anti-religious discourse, modernity, and secular thought, as well as gender issues. There will also be several speakers that will examine the role of authoritarian regimes and state-sponsored religious scholars in promoting and instrumentalizing Islamophobia. In addition, several sessions will discuss several case studies from Muslim-Majority countries, and the role of colonialism, nationalism, and racism. In the final session, scholars will engage in an open discussion on strategies, policies, and actions needed in order to confront Islamophobia in Muslim majority countries. Finally, it must be noted that one of the major objectives of this conference is to bring together leading scholars in their respective fields in order to intellectually engage in thoughtful discussions on some of the major issues related to Islamophobia within Muslim majority societies, and to ultimately explore the range of appropriate responses. The panels will not only analyze these topics and present prescient assessments but will also attempt to present practical solutions to difficult challenges.

Program Committee

- Dr. Rabia Akhtar, University of Lahore, Lahore, Pakistan
Dr. Sami Al-Arian, CIGA, Istanbul Sabahattin Zaim University, Türkiye
Dr. Aizan Binti Ali, Universiti Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Dr. Tariq Awan, International Islamic University, Islamabad, Pakistan
Dr. John Esposito, ACMCU, Georgetown University, USA
Dr. Muhammad Junaid Ghouri, International Islamic University, Islamabad, Pakistan
Dr. Ejaz Haider, University of Lahore, Lahore, Pakistan
Dr. Asyiqin Binti Ab Halim, Universiti Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Dr. Zafar Iqbal, International Islamic University, Islamabad, Pakistan
Dr. Muhammad Muzaffari, University of Religions and Denominations, Qum, Iran
Dr. Mohd Roslan, Universiti Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Dr. Che Zarrina Binti Sa'ari, Universiti Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Dr. Yasemin Saib, CIGA, Istanbul Sabahattin Zaim University, Türkiye
Ms. Mobashra Tazamal, The Bridge Initiative, Georgetown University, USA
Dr. Fadi Zatari, CIGA, Istanbul Sabahattin Zaim University, Türkiye

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Sponsors of Fourth International Conference on Islamophobia (2023)



**Center for Islam and Global Affairs (CIGA)
at Istanbul Sabahattin Zaim University (IZU)**

Vision

To be a premiere research institution for ideas, analysis, and policy recommendations on global affairs impacting the Muslim World, and to foster future relations with world powers based on shared principles, common interests, and mutual respect.

Mission

The Center for Islam and Global Affairs (CIGA) is an independent, nonprofit, research and public policy institution based in Istanbul, Türkiye, and affiliated with Istanbul Sabahattin Zaim University. Its mission is “To conduct high quality research and analysis, educate the public and policymakers, train experts, and propose novel ideas and policy recommendations regarding global policies and relations impacting the Islamic world, and the development and progress of Muslim societies.”



Istanbul Sabahattin Zaim University, Türkiye

Istanbul Sabahattin Zaim University is committed to shaping virtuous leaders of the highest caliber and skill who embrace the values of our civilization, and are dedicated to pursuing scientific inquiry, serving humanity and its future.



Prince Alwaleed bin Talal Center
for Muslim-Christian Understanding
GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

Alwaleed Center for Muslim- Christian Understanding, Georgetown University, USA

Mission

The global presence and impact of Islam is a fact of international life; understanding Muslim-Christian relations in global affairs is a focal concern of the Center. As a leader in the study of Islam and Muslim-Christian relations, the mission of the Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding (ACMCU) is twofold: to build bridges of mutual understanding between the Muslim world and the West and to enhance understanding of Muslims in the West.

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Universiti Malaya, Malaysia

UM is the first public university established in Malaysia with a long history of achieving numerous accolades and delivers the best academic experience and world-class educational facilities.

Vision: A global university impacting the world.

Mission: Pushing the boundaries of knowledge and nurturing aspiring leaders.



Center for Peace and Dialogue at the University of Religions and Denominations, Iran

The Center for Peace and Dialogue (CPD) is a multi-disciplinary academic institute at the University of Religions and Denominations, which promotes peace and reconciliation through interreligious and intrareligious dialogue. The CPD is committed to religious peace-building among communities and friendly relations between nations by a variety of means including education, research, training, and dialogue.



University Of Lahore, Pakistan

Vision

To become a world-class university characterized by its excellence and contribution to society through Education, Research, Entrepreneurship, and Internationalization.

Mission

The University of Lahore strives to achieve the following mission goals in pursuance of UOL vision:

- Pursue and deliver academic excellence in every aspect of our endeavors.
- Reinforce the culture of research, innovation, and commercialization.
- Produce graduates to become future ready leaders through lifelong learning experience.
- Improve sustainability of the ecosystem which is vital for ensuring social and environmental wellbeing of society.
- Promote global flow of ideas, students, and scholars through comprehensive internationalization.

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الجامعة الإسلامية العالمية
International Islamic University, Islamabad

Islamic International University, Islamabad, Pakistan

Vision

To provide every opportunity for an all-round and harmonious development of individuals and society and reconstruction of human thought in all its forms on the foundations of Islam in order to encourage and promote education, training the research in Islamic learning, social, natural, applied and communication sciences and other branches of learning to ensure the Muslim Ummah's ideological, moral, intellectual, social, economic and technological development in accordance with the values, ideals, principles and norms of Islam.

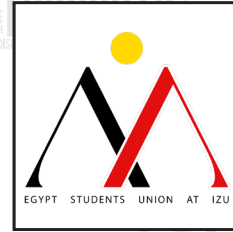
Mission

To optimize integration and Islamization of the contemporary knowledge and human thought in international perspective through established institutions and academic endeavors to achieve excellence in all branches of knowledge.

Students & Community Organizations Co-Sponsors



IZU International Students Club



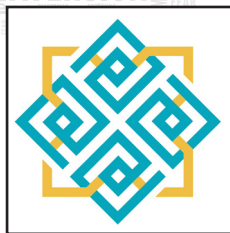
Egypt Students Union at IZU



Palestinian Student Society at IZU



YTB.Pak Students Society



Majlis of Istanbul Muslims (MIM)



Muslim Women in Business (Muswib)

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Session IV: 13:30-15:30 [Parallel Sessions]

Case Studies in Atheism, Secularism, Nationalism, Media and Gender

Parallel Session IV.A - Seminar 1 Room

Moderator: Saliha Uysal, Istanbul University, Türkiye

Seeing Liberal-Secular NGOs as the Latest Avatars of Glocal Islamophobia: Case Study of the Narrative of 'Forced Conversion' in Pakistan

Ghulam Hussain, Bahria University, Islamabad, Pakistan

Atheism In Bangladesh and Its Impact on Youngsters

Noor Mohammad Osmani, International Islamic University, Malaysia

The Rise of Islamophobic Populism in India: A Case Study of Indian Radical Right Party BJP

Noor Fatima, International Islamic University, Islamabad, Pakistan

Maryam Khan, CIGA, Istanbul Sabahattin Zaim University, Türkiye

Anti-Muslim Rhetoric in International Media: A Case Study of FIFA Qatar World Cup 2022

Hafsa Aijaz and Iman Mujahid, Kinnaird College for Women, Lahore, Pakistan

Parallel Session IV.B - Seminar 2 Room

Moderator: Fahid Qurashi, University of Salford, UK

Gendered Islamophobia in Indonesia: Forms and Solutions

Luciana Anggraeni, Fahrudin Mukhlis, University of Muhammadiyah Malang, Indonesia and

Jamal, Islamic State University of Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang, Indonesia

Ratcheted up Restrictions on Women in Afghanistan: How can the full spectrum of Women's Rights be ensured to address anti-Muslim Discourse?

Fazal Elahi Bilal, University of Lahore, Pakistan

Strategies for Increasing the Role of Muslimah in the Political Sphere: A Comparative Study in India and Indonesia

Azaria Rahmadianingrum, Brawijaya University, Indonesia

Islamic Discourses in the Narratives of Migrant Afghan Refugee Women in Pakistan and India: Identity Construction & Repositioning

Tanzeela Anbreen, University of Bedfordshire, UK, and

Samina Ayub, Lahore College for Women University, Pakistan