



Virtual & Global

ISLA RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

Shaping the Future of Islamic Schools
The Role of Research

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

SATURDAY & SUNDAY
APRIL 25-26, 2026

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ISLA RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

Shaping the Future of Islamic Schools



TITLE SPONSORS:

Saturday, April 25



**INTERNATIONAL
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10:00-10:15 AM

**Opening Remarks &
Symposium Framing**

ISLA & IIIT

10:15-11:45 AM CST

PANEL 1

**Dr. Petro
Nungovitch (ISA)**

USING TECH THOUGHTFULLY IN ISLAMIC SCHOOLS

**AbdulGafar
Olawale Fahm**

Integrating Digital Citizenship into Islamic Education: Classroom Interventions among K-12 Learners in Nigeria

Jamiylah Jones

Islamic Intelligence by Design: Why Islamic Schools Need a Responsible AI System

Sahar Hussain

Exploring How School Leaders are Adopting Artificial Intelligence in New York K-12 Schools

Nagadya Hamidah

Enhancing K-12 Islamic Education in United-States: Overcoming Barriers to Digital, Gender-Responsive, Experiential, and Applied Pedagogies

Saima Toor

Driving Muslim Female Engagement in STEM

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Saturday, April 25

12:00-1:45 PM CST

PANEL 2

**Dr. Ismail Ibn Ali
(CIRE)**

HELPING STUDENTS CONNECT WITH THE QURAN

**Muwalimu Elias
Kigonya**

Motivational Application of Qur'anic Messages for Effective Teaching and Learning in Islamic Education

Hassan Ali Peay

Opening the Doors of Hifz: Leveraging Learning Styles to Expand Qur'anic Memorization

Amaal Aref

From Recitation to Reflection: Why Early Childhood Programs are Essential for Meaningful Reflection on the Quran

**Sa-id Mukhtar
Abubakar**

Shaping the Future of Islamic Education in Ghana: The Role of Language, Pedagogy and Curriculum in Arabic Instruction

Fazwee Zahaa

Developing Modules for Qur'ānic Arabic Programs in K-12 Islamic Schools: A Maqasid Methodology-Oriented Approach

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Saturday, April 25

2:00-3:30 PM CST

PANEL 3

**Afeefa Syeed
(CIRE)**

TEACHING WITH PURPOSE AND PROPHETIC PEDAGOGY

Amira Ahmed

Bridging the Knowledge-Action Gap in Education: A Comparative Study of a Prophetic-Centric Pedagogical Approach to Cultivate Ta'aqqul

Amal Jawan

Prophetic Character as Living Pedagogy

Asmaa Albadawi

The FITRAH Framework: An Integrative Approach to Classroom Management and Discipline in Islamic Schools

Ella Ghoneim

When the Heart Learns: Using Prophetic Teaching Principles in Gamified Islamic Learning

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Saturday, April 25

4:00-5:45 PM CST

PANEL 4

**Dr. Dania Wattar
(ISAC)**

TOWARDS TAWHID: BRIDGING RESEARCH, THEORY & PRACTICE

**Safiyyah Kent
Thompson**

Navigating Two Moral Worlds: Cultivating
Discernment in Islamic School Education

Idris Nawaz

Worldview in Focus: Comparative Tables for
Islamic School Education in America

Saniyah Qazi

Positioned Choices: How Faith and Identity
Shape Muslim Parents' School Decisions

**Sahar Khawaja,
Hannan Hijazi,
Amaarah DeCuir**

Collecting Quantitative Data with American
Muslim Communities: Lessons from a Survey of
Islamic School Alumni

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Saturday, April 25

6:00-7:45 PM CST

PANEL 5

Panel Chair
Org

LEADERSHIP IN ISLAMIC SCHOOLS

Rasha El-Haggan

Who Gets A Say: Reviving Shūra in Islamic School Decision Making

**Leila Kayed,
Seema Imam**

Muslim Women in Institutional Leadership of Islamic Schools

**Raghad Ebied,
Rasha Qaisi,
Asma Ahmed**

Between Sacred Texts and Professional Life: Muslim Women Navigating Faith and Leadership

**Mohammad Abdul
Halim**

Amānah, Accountability, Evidence: A Research Led Framework for Good Governance in Islamic Schools

Kathryn Jones

The Hidden Barrier to Tarbiyah in Islamic Schools: Why student transformation begins with the tarbiyah of the educator

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Saturday, April 25

8:00-9:45 PM CST

PANEL 6

**Dylan Chown
(CITE)**

HOLISTIC HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

**Martin Putra
Perdana**

Zakiah Daradjat Psychotherapeutic Approach to Family Education: Shaping the Future of Islamic Schools

Anas M

The "Ecosystem of Belonging": Implementing Lifelong Class-Union Models and Alumni-Led Social Impact in K-12 Islamic Schools

Maffaz Al Safi

Senior Secondary Students' Understanding and Development of Taqwah (God-Consciousness) in an Australian Islamic School

Maisaa Kassar

Wellbeing as Tarbiyah: Integrating Islamic Character Formation within Contemporary Student Wellbeing Practice

**Nazrul Islam
Pramanik**

Bridging the Experience Gap Between Online and Face-to-Face Learning Through Emotionally Intelligent Pedagogy

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Sunday, April 26

9:00-10:45 AM CST

PANEL 1

**Dr. Halil Atabay
(IIIT)**

ISLAMIC EDUCATION ACROSS GLOBAL CONTEXTS

Rakim Sammy

From Traditional Madrasah to Integrated Education: Reimagining Islamic Curriculum for the Contemporary Classroom in the Philippines

Bello Ahmed

Moral Deterioration and Academic Laziness among Secondary School Students: A Comparative Study of Day Secondary School Limawa and Al-Inarah Islamic Model School

Sadheer Khan

The application of Constructivist and project-based learning frameworks of Pakistani madrassas to K-12 Islamic schools in the U.S

**Halide Rumeysa
Küçüköner**

Balancing Religious Education and Student Well-Being: Experiences of Primary Students Attending Qur'an Courses in Türkiye

Esra Polat Onbaşı

The Impact of Westernization on Education: Necmettin Erbakan's Vision for an Alternative Educational Model

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Sunday, April 26

11:00 AM-12:45 PM CST

PANEL 2

**Dr. Farah Ahmed
(IELC)**

REIMAGINING THE CLASSROOM: TEACHING & LEARNING

**Mohammad
Shekaib Alam**

Restoring the Culture of Inquiry: A Critical Review of Mindset and Pedagogy in U.S. Islamic Schools

Iqbal Akhtar

Beyond Insularity: Reimagining Pluralism and Interfaith Literacy in Islamic School Curriculum

**Dina Hassan El
Odessy**

Gardens of Eternal Flourishing: Head, Heart, Soul, Hands — and Heaven. Toward a Tawhidi Framework of Whole-Human and Whole-Life Learning

Maria Zehra

Tazkiya and Tarbiyah as a Dynamic Framework for Navigating Identity and Belongingness issues among K-12 students

Sarah Mitkees

Holistic Islamic Teacher Education: An Ontological-Pedagogical Model of Praxis- Integrating Al-Kaylani's Five Relationships and FIRST Framework

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Sunday, April 26

1:00 PM-2:30 PM CST

PANEL 3

**Panel Chair
Org**

PREPARING AND SUPPORTING TEACHERS

**Amaarah DeCuir,
Rehenuma Asmi**

Co-constructing Professional Practice Rubrics
on Prophetic Pedagogy for Islamic School
Teachers

Hussein Salahaldin

Young SalamMakers: Critical Islamic Peace
Pedagogy for Courageous Conversations in
Islamic Schools

Maneeza Dawood

Islamically Integrated Consent and Respectful
Relationships Education: A Case Study with
Educators in Australia

**Muhammad
Coovadia**

Spiritual Foundations Yet Cultural Barriers:
Educators' Constructions of Learner Mental
Health in South Africa's Muslim Schools

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Sunday, April 26

1:00 PM-2:30 PM CST

PANEL 4

Panel Chair
Org

TRANSFORMING SOCIETY THROUGH EDUCATION

Rukayat Yakub

Islamic Schools as Incubators of Transformation: Black Belonging and Antiracism in U.S. Islamic Education

Rawan Abdulla

Strangers and Vanguarders: Rethinking the Social Vision of Islamic Educational Environments

Maryam Sharrieff

Recapturing Hidden Legacies: Blackamerican/African Diasporic Muslim Women and the Politics of Islamic Knowledge Production

**Miriam Ezzani,
Melanie Brooks**

Islam, Education and Freedom

4:45 PM CST

Closing Reflections

Dr. Nadeem Memon

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