



**ONE-DAY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

# **A CRITICAL APPRAISAL OF 21st CENTURY WESTERN SCHOLARSHIP ON ISLAM**

**17th Feb. 2025**

**Organised By**

Department of Islamic Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi  
And  
Centre for Study and Research, New Delhi

## ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Western scholarship on Islam and Muslims has a long history. The western scholars have extensively studied diverse aspects of Islam, especially its Sacred Texts and Traditions, mostly driven by criticism and missionary goals. This has resulted in a body of scholarship that is largely "polemical" in nature. Western scholarship on Islam has experienced exponential growth in the last two centuries and has gained more momentum over the past 25 years of 21st century. This has resulted in the production of substantial amount of literature in Islamic studies and its various facets, including encyclopedias, edited volumes, books, monographs, research papers, projects, articles, translations, and journals. However, this scholarship often deviates from the original and primary sources of Islam, lacking a solid Islamic foundation, epistemology, and methodology. As a result, it contains numerous flaws that cannot be ignored.

This conference seeks to critically evaluate the contributions, biases, and evolving narratives within Western academic engagements with Islam since 2000. By evolving and crafting a narrative which is factual and rooted in academic integrity. The event aims to address gaps, challenge stereotypes, and chart pathways for more just and authentic scholarship. By bringing together serious and dedicated Academicians scholars and researchers, the conference will examine the role of Western scholarship in Islamic studies and provide an academic response to their misconceptions and allegations.

## BROAD OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFERENCE

### 1. Identification:

Identify current trends in Western scholarship in Islamic Studies.

### 2. Assess Methodological Shifts:

Analyze the transition from Orientalist paradigms to critical, postcolonial, and interdisciplinary approaches in Western Islamic studies.

### 3. Evaluate Representation:

Scrutinize portrayals of Islamic theology, history, and governance in Western academia, particularly regarding the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), Quranic hermeneutics, and political thought

### 4. Exploration:

Explore the polemical approach of Western scholars on Islamic Sciences.

## THEMES

### 1. Quranic Studies:

Comparative Methodologies Western vs. Muslim Approaches: Contrast historical-critical methods focusing on debates over the Quran's compilation and historicity

### 2. Ethics of Interpretation of Quran:

Discuss the implications of secular academic frameworks on theological authenticity

### 3. Historiography and Revisions in Prophetic Biography (Seerah)

Shifts in Seerah Scholarship: Examine 21st-century Western biographies of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Hadith Studies

#### **4. Challenging Orientalist Narratives:**

Critique centered towards Eurocentric biases and those that celebrate efforts to contextualize Islamic sources authentically

#### **5. Islamic Thought (Social, Political, Economic, etc.):**

Beyond the Binary debates of Democracy vs. Islamic Governance: Evaluate scholarly debates on compatibility, and critiques on liberal democracy. Islamic History and Civilization

#### **6. Postcolonial Statehood:**

Explore Western scholarship on Muslim-majority states navigating secularism and Shariah

#### **7. Islam and Gender Studies:**

Critical appraisal of gender debates

### **SUBMISSION GUIDELINES**

The paper presenter should submit quality academic paper with substantive analysis and findings. Papers should be between 5,000 to 7,000 words (including references/ bibliography) in APA style of referencing. Paper should have the following sections: Abstract, Keywords, Literature Review, Methodology, Discussion, and Findings/Conclusion. Papers will be published, after substantive revision, as an edited book, from Centre for Study and Research, New Delhi.

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

Abstract Submission Deadline : **10th Jan 2026**

Abstract acceptance : **15th Jan 2026**

Final paper : **10th Feb 2026**

Deadline for registration : **15th Jan 2025**

Director of Conference  
**Prof. Dr. Iqtidar Mohd. Khan**

### **Cordinators**

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