



مركز دراسات التشريع
الإسلامي والأخلاق
Research Center for Islamic
Legislation and Ethics
عضو في كلية الدراسات الإسلامية في قطر
Member of Qatar Faculty of Islamic Studies



جامعة حمد بن خليفة
HAMAD BIN KHALIFA UNIVERSITY
كلية الدراسات الإسلامية
College of Islamic Studies



KU LEUVEN

Summer School

Islamic Ethics and the Covid-19 Pandemic

9 - 12 August 2020

Organizers

Research Center for Islamic Legislation & Ethics (CILE),
College of Islamic Studies (CIS), Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU)

Doha, Qatar

&

Arabic and Islamic Studies (Faculty of Arts)

& Leuven Centre for the Study of Islam,

Culture and Society (LCSICS)

University of Leuven, Belgium

The Covid-19 Pandemic

The Covid-19 pandemic has heavily disrupted people's lives almost everywhere on earth. At times of uncertainty and associated panic, individuals and communities consult their moral systems to examine how thorny ethical dilemmas can be addressed. This made Covid-19 a typically intriguing bioethical phenomenon, which triggered global discourse on related moral issues. Discussions in the West suffer from serious lacunas when it comes to religious perspectives in general and Islam in particular. Parallel deliberations within Islam are still immature and still have to critically engage with international discussions.

This summer school provides participants interested in Islamic Ethics with the necessary knowledge and skills to critically engage with the global bioethical discourse on the Covid-19 pandemic. Participants will become familiar with case studies of pandemic diseases and their effects on Muslim societies in medieval, colonial and contemporary times. They will be exposed to a variety of legal, theological, and historical treatises on pandemic diseases written by Muslim scholars in their own times.

Interdisciplinarity will be the overarching method of the Summer School, which will facilitate conducting in-depth and critical analyses of a vast literature and various perspectives. Participants will study not only the religio-legal importance of Muslim writings about pandemics, but also the historical chronicling of plague epidemics throughout history and their relevance to current ethical discussions about Covid-19.

In order to put Islamic ethical discussions on Covid-19 in their proper context, the lectures will cover three main components:

- (1) An historical overview of the ethical discussions on early plagues and how far they were influenced by available scientific knowledge - from classical Miasmatic theory up to modern epidemiology and virology.
- (2) Ethical approaches and discourses on Covid-19, including secular bioethics and varying Islamic approaches i.e. scriptural, theological and juristic approaches.
- (3) Key ethical issues such as congregational rituals, medical rationing and triage.

The Program

Sunday August 9th /2020	
13:00¹ – 13:20	<p><i>Opening and Orientation</i></p> <p>Dr. Emad Shahin, CILE Director and Dean of the College of Islamic Studies Dr. Mohamed Ghaly – CILE Academic Director</p>
13:20 – 15:20	<p><i>Ethics of plague: An historical overview</i></p> <p>Instructor: Dr. Mohammed Ghaly & Dr. Umar Ryad</p>
15:20 – 16:00	Break
16:00 – 18:00	<p><i>Islamic ethics and pandemics: Key moral principles</i></p> <p>Instructor: Dr. Mutaz al-Khatib</p>

Monday August 10 th /2020	
13:00 – 15:00	<p><i>Covid-19 through the lens of bioethics: Surveying secular and Islamic approaches</i></p> <p>Instructor: Dr. Mohammed Ghaly</p>
15:00 – 15:30	Break
15:30– 17:30	<p><i>Plague in scriptures and interreligious polemics</i></p> <p>Instructor: Dr. Samer Rashwani</p>
17:30– 18:00	Break
18:00– 20:00	<p><i>The ‘ulamā’ and the Sufis: Pre-modern views on plagues and epidemics</i></p> <p>Instructor: Dr. Arjan Post</p>

¹ Doha time (GMT+2).

Tuesday August 11 th /2020	
13:00 – 15:00	<i>Congregational prayers at the time of Covid-19 Pandemic</i> Instructor: Dr. <i>Mohammed Ghaly</i>
15:00 – 15:30	Break
15:30 – 17:30	<i>Pilgrimage and pandemics in the colonial age</i> Instructor: Dr. Amr Ryad
17:30– 18:00	Break
18:00– 20:00	<i>Medical rationing and triage in a pandemic context</i> Instructor: Dr. Mutaz al-Khatib

Wednesday August 12 th /2020	
13:00 – 15:00	<i>The Covid-19 pandemic and its dilemmas for migrants and minorities</i> Instructor: Dr. Ray Jureidini
15:00 – 15:30	Break
15:30 – 17:30	<i>The impact of Covid-19 on burial among European Muslims</i> Instructor: Dr. Chaïma Ahaddour
17:30 – 18:00	Break
18:00 – 19:00	Concluding remarks and open discussion

Organizers

Research Center for Islamic Legislation & Ethics (CILE), College of Islamic Studies, Hamad Bin Khalifa University

Islamic Ethics is one of the emerging scholarly fields with promising growth potential in academic research and also with great appeal among the general public. The Research Center for Islamic Legislation and Ethics (CILE) has been contributing to this emerging field through various ways. Besides organizing international conferences and research seminars, CILE has also contributed to the field through pioneer academic initiatives. In collaboration with the renowned publisher Brill, CILE established the *Journal of Islamic Ethics* and the book-series *Studies in Islamic Ethics*. Additionally, the first-of-its-kind M.A. program “*Applied Islamic Ethics*” was inaugurated this academic year (2019-2020) in the College of Islamic Studies at Hamad Bin Khalifa University, to which CILE is affiliated. The program addresses how Islam, as a world religion with a rich moral tradition, engages with and contributes to the global moral discourse. Its strong interdisciplinary character combines in-depth knowledge of both theoretical and applied ethics rooted in the Islamic moral tradition.

Leuven Centre for the Study of Islam Culture and Society

KU Leuven was established in 1425 and is the oldest university in the Low Countries. Today, KU Leuven accommodates 50,000 students, spread across the various campuses in Leuven and elsewhere in Flanders. It ranks among the world’s top one hundred universities. Arabic and Islamic Studies is based at the Faculty of Arts, which hosts various research units and groups in cultures, history, literatures and languages. The Faculty of Arts is also the chair of the recently-established interfaculty Leuven Centre for the Study of Islam and Society (LCSICS) as part of the long-standing commitment of KU Leuven to the development of scholarship of Islam and Muslim societies. The Centre is an interdisciplinary crossroad for scholars and researchers at KU Leuven in various fields, including theology, religious studies, history, law, philosophy, philology, literature, anthropology, sociology, social and cultural psychology, cultural studies, and the arts. The new Centre is expected to play a leading role in the interdisciplinary and comparative study of Muslims, Muslim Societies, Muslim Communities in the diaspora, and Islam between and across the boundaries of traditional area studies programs on national and international levels.

Teaching Team

Dr. Mohammed Ghaly - Professor of Islam and Biomedical Ethics, Academic Director



Dr. Mohammed Ghaly is professor of Islam and Biomedical Ethics at the Research Center for Islamic Legislation & Ethics (CILE) at Hamad Bin Khalifa University in Doha, Qatar. He has a B.A. degree in Islamic Studies from Al-Azhar University (Egypt) and M.A. and PhD degrees in the same specialization from Leiden University (the Netherlands). During the period 2013-2007, Ghaly was a faculty member at Leiden University.

The intersection of Islamic Ethics and biomedical sciences is Ghaly's main specialization. He is the editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Islamic Ethics* (published by Brill). Since 2011, Ghaly has been a faculty member at the Erasmus Mundus Program; the European Master of Bioethics, jointly organized by a number of European universities. Ghaly lectured on Islamic (bio)ethics at many universities worldwide including Imperial College London, Oxford University, University of Oslo, University of Chicago and Georgetown University. Ghaly was affiliated as Visiting Scholar/Researcher with a number of universities including the Kennedy Institute of Ethics at Georgetown University, USA (academic year 2015-2014), School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography at the University of Oxford (academic year 2018-2017) and School of Philosophy at the Erasmus University Rotterdam (academic year 2019-2018).

Besides his book *Islam and Disability: Perspectives in Theology and Jurisprudence* (Routledge, 2010) and the edited volumes *Islamic Perspectives on the Principles of Biomedical Ethics* (Imperial College & World Scientific, 2016) and *Islamic Ethics and the Genome Question* (Brill, 2019), Ghaly is the single author of more than thirty peer-reviewed publications and serves on the editorial board of a number of academic journals. He is also the Lead Principal Investigator (LPI) and research consultant of a number of funded research projects. His publications can be accessed via <https://cilecenter.academia.edu/MohammedGhaly>

Dr. Rajai Ray Jureidini - Professor of Migration, Human Rights and Ethics



Dr. Rajai Ray Jureidini is professor of migration ethics and human rights since 2014 at the Center for Islamic Legislation and Ethics in the College of Islamic Studies at Hamad Bin Khalifa University, Doha, Qatar. His human and labor rights based research and activism centers on migrant labor exploitation, human trafficking, racism, debt bondage, corruption and slavery-like practices in the Middle East. He obtained his PhD from the Flinders University of South Australia in economic and industrial sociology. After teaching Sociology in several universities in Australia; he spent 6 years at the American University of Beirut from 1999 and 6 years at the American University in Cairo from 2005, where he became director of the Center for Migration and Refugee Studies; 3 years at the Institute for Migration Studies at the Lebanese American University in Beirut from 2011.

In 2012, Dr. Jureidini spent a year as research consultant for the Qatar Foundation in Doha. He was one of the authors of the Qatar Foundation's 2013 Mandatory Standards for Migrant Worker Welfare and the author of a 2014 report, Migrant Labour Recruitment to Qatar for the Qatar Foundation. In 2016, he authored the ILO White Paper, Ways Forward in Fair Recruitment of Low-skilled Migrant Workers in the Asia-Arab States Corridor. Among many other publications such as on Wage Protection Systems in the GCC and the Transnational Culture of Corruption in Migrant Labour Recruitment, Dr. Jureidini edited a special issue of *Sociology of Islam* on "Immigration, Political Economy and Islam". He recently published (with Said Hassan) an edited book entitled *Migration and Islamic Ethics: Issues of Residence, Naturalization and Citizenship* by Brill Publishers. Professor Jureidini is a consultant and advisor on refugee issues, labour recruitment, labour supply chain evaluations and migrant labour reform advocacy.

Dr. Mutaz al-Khatib -Associate Professor of Methodology



Mutaz Alkhatib is Assistant Professor of Methodologies and history of Islamic Ethics at the Research Center for Islamic Legislation & Ethics (CILE) and College of Islamic Studies at Hamad Bin Khalifa University in Doha, Qatar. He did Islamic Studies in Damascus (BA, 1997) and studied Arabic Literature at al-Azhar University in Cairo. Al-Khatib was a founding member of the Intellectual Forum for Innovation (1999), and the anchor of Al-sharia and Life program on Al-Jazeera Channel, (2004 2013-). He acted as Editor-in-Chief of the section “Islam and Contemporary Affairs” on IslamOnline.net (2008-2003). He was a visiting fellow at Zentrum Moderner Orient (ZMO) in Berlin (2006), and a visiting scholar at the Forum Transregionale Studien, Berlin (2013-2012). Al-Khatib was a Visiting Lecturer at the American University of Beirut, the Islamic University of Beirut and Qatar University. He has given lectures and participated in conferences internationally: Oxford University, University of Cambridge, Princeton University, Florida University, Berkeley School of Law, Tubingen University, University of Ludwig-Maximilians, Osnabruck University, and other universities worldwide.

He is an editorial board member of Journal of Islamic Ethics and the book series “Studies in Islamic Ethics” both published by Brill. He is the Principle Investigator (PI) of a large-scale project on genomics and Islamic ethics funded by the Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF). Alkhatib authored some books including “The textual critical approach to ḥadīth: a study of the methods of traditionalists and jurists” (Beirut: Arab Network for Studies and Publishing, 2011), and “The Justified Violence: «Sharia» versus the people and the state” (Cairo: Dar Almashriq, 2017). He also edited several books and published over 30 academic articles in Arabic and English, some of them published by Brill and Oxford.

Dr. Umar Ryad: – Director of Leuven Center for the Study of Islam, Culture and Society (LCSICS)



Umar Ryad is Professor of Arabic and Islamic Studies at the University of Leuven and member of the Young Academy of Belgium (2018-2023). Prior he has worked as assistant professor at the University of Leiden (2008-2014) and as associate professor at Utrecht University (2014-2017). He earned a BA in Islamic Studies in English from Al-Azhar University in Cairo, followed by an MA degree in Islamic Studies (Cum Laude) and a PhD degree, both from Leiden University. He also taught at the universities of Bern and Oslo; and was a research fellow at the University of Bonn, the Berlin Graduate School Muslim Cultures and Societies (Free University of Berlin), the Leibniz Zentrum Moderner Orient (ZMO) in Berlin and the Leibniz Institute of European History (IEG) in Mainz. He is a board member of the Netherlands Interuniversity School for Islamic Studies (NISIS). He leads a European Research Council (ERC) project which focuses on the “History of Muslims in Interwar Europe” (2014-2019). His current research also includes the dynamics of the networks of pan-Islamist movements, Arab reception of Orientalism, Muslim polemics on Christianity, and transnational Islam in the modern world..

Dr. Samer Rashwani



Samer Rashwani is currently a visiting professor at the Research Center for Islamic Legislation & Ethics (CILE), College of Islamic Studies at Hamad Bin Khalifa University. In 1998, he got his bachelor degree in Islamic Studies from faculty of Sharia at Damascus University. In 2003, he got his M.A. degree in tafsir and qur'anic studies from Cairo University, and in 2007 he got his PhD from the same university. During the Period 2007-2011, he was faculty member at the faculty of Shari'a at Damascus and Aleppo University. He was Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Berlin-based Forum Transregionale Studien, 2011-2013. Since 2013, he is a research fellow and lecturer at the Center for Islamic Theology, University of Tübingen, Germany.

During his academic career, Rashwani developed a wide range of research interests and academic publications within the field of Islamic studies including tafsir, hermeneutics, Islamic theology, Islamic ethics. Besides his book *Manhaj al-Tafsir al-Mawḍū'ī* [The Methodology of Thematic Interpretation of the Qur'ān: a critical approach], (Aleppo 2009), Rashwani edited several volumes in Quranic studies and modern Muslim thought.

Dr. Chaïma Ahaddour



Chaïma Ahaddour is assistant professor Islamic Ethics at the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies, KU Leuven, where she is a member of the Research Unit Theological and Comparative Ethics. Her areas of specialization are: Islamic ethics, beginning-of-life issues, end-of-life care.

Chaïma obtained her doctoral degree in Religious Studies at the KU Leuven. She has worked on a doctoral dissertation on the attitudes, beliefs and practices regarding death and dying among middle-aged and elderly Moroccan Muslim women living in Antwerp, Belgium. Currently, Chaïma's research focuses on Islamic perspectives on issues at the beginning of life, including prenatal diagnosis and termination of pregnancy.

Dr. Arjan Post



As of October 2018 Arjan Post is assistant professor in Arabic and Islamic Studies at the University of Leuven. He has a BA in anthropology from the University of Amsterdam (2008), and M.Phil. in Middle Eastern studies from Leiden University (2011, cum laude); in addition, he has studied Arabic in Damascus and Rabat. In November 2017, he defended his PhD at Utrecht University on the life and teachings of ‘Imād al-Dīn Aḥmad al-Wāsiṭī (d. 711/1311), a Sufī and companion of Ibn Taymiyya. In the following year he taught Arabic and several courses related to Islam at the same university. His fields of interest include Sufism, Islamic theology, especially in relation to the Ḥanbalī school, and Moroccan Islam. He has published several articles on these topics, as well as an edition and translation of a unique commentary by the Moroccan Sufī Ibn ‘Ajība. His book on al-Wāsiṭī is due to be published with Brill by the end of this summer.