



## Winter School

### *Maṣlaḥa* (Benefit/interest) as an Ethical Concept

30-31 January 2021

### 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

### ***Maṣlaḥa* (Benefit/interest) as an Ethical Concept**

The reflections in this Winter School on the concept of *maṣlaḥa* are part of CILE's broader and long-term interest in examining key concepts in the Islamic tradition and how they could/should contribute to the moral discourse on a wide range of issues concerned with ethical dilemmas. Within this framework, CILE has initiated earlier discussions on *maṣlaḥa*. For example, in 2015, CILE published a short interview with Dr. Muhammad Khalid Masud on "[The Concept of Maslaha and its Ethical Implications](#)". Two years later (November 2017), CILE organized an Internal Seminar on "[Ethics & the Concept of Maslaha \(Benefit/Interest\): Towards a Comprehensive, Consistent, and Implementable Theory](#)". CILE also organized a public lecture entitled "[What's Maslaha? Who Decides?](#)" on 19 November 2017. In the same vein, CILE developed the theme of the moral significance of the concept of *maqāṣid* in the 2017 CILE Summer School.

### **Teaching and Research**

Key concepts like *maṣlaḥa* and *maqāṣid* and their contribution to the moral discourse also make part of our teaching- and research-related activities. As for teaching, there is the recently established M.A. program "[Applied Islamic Ethics](#)", which takes place within the College of Islamic Studies, at Hamad Bin Khalifa University. As for research, CILE established the peer-reviewed [Journal of Islamic Ethics](#) and the book-series [Studies in Islamic Ethics](#), both published by Brill in the Netherlands.

Interdisciplinarity will be the overarching method of the Winter School, which will facilitate conducting in-depth and critical analyses of the literature and various perspectives.

## The Program

Saturday January 30 <sup>th</sup> 2021	
<b>13.00<sup>1</sup> – 13.30</b>	<i>Opening and Orientation</i>  Dr. Emad Shahin, CILE Director; Dean College of Islamic Studies Dr. Mohamed Ghaly – CILE Academic Director Dr. Rajai Ray Jureidini - Moderator
<b>13.30 – 14.00</b>	<i>Maṣlaḥa and ethical reasoning: Pre-modern Islamic discourse</i> Dr. Mutaz al-Khatib
<b>14.00 -14.30</b>	Discussion
<b>14.30 -15.00</b>	<i>Maṣlaḥa revisited in the writings of the 20<sup>th</sup> century Muslim reformists</i> Dr. Amr Ryad
<b>15.00 – 15.30</b>	Discussion
<b>15.30 – 16.00</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>16.00 – 16.30</b>	<i>Maṣlaḥa as a public reason</i> Dr. Sari Hanafi
<b>16.30 – 17.00</b>	Discussion
<b>17.00 – 17.30</b>	<i>Best Interest/Common Good/Utility” in moral philosophy</i> Dr Constanze Binder
<b>17.30 – 18.00</b>	Discussion and Closing remarks
<b>End of Day 1</b>	

Sunday January 31 <sup>st</sup> 2021	
<b>13.00 – 13.30</b>	<i>Maṣlaḥa and related concepts in contemporary Islamic bioethical discourse</i> Dr. Mohammed Ghaly
<b>13.30 – 14.00</b>	Discussion
<b>14.00 – 14.30</b>	<i>Maṣlaḥa in gender discourse</i> Dr. Shuruq Naguib & Mr. Mahmoud Affifi
<b>14.30 – 15.00</b>	Discussion
<b>15.00 – 15.30</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>15.30– 16.00</b>	<i>Best interest/common good/utility in political sciences</i> Dr. Heba Raouf Ezzat
<b>16.00 – 16.30</b>	Discussion
<b>16.30 – 17.00</b>	<b>Concluding Remarks and Discussion</b>

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<sup>1</sup> Doha time (GMT+3).

## 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, CILE



**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, CILE**



**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, CILE**



**Mutaz Alkhatib** is Associate 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, Tübingen University, University of Ludwig-Maximilians, Osnabrück 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 Al-mashriq, 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. Sari Hanafi – Professor of Sociology, American University of Beirut**



**Sari Hanafi** is currently a Professor of Sociology and chair of the Islamic Studies program at the American University of Beirut, and President of the International Sociological Association. He is also the editor of *Idafat: the Arab Journal of Sociology* (Arabic) and Vice President of the Arab Council of Social Science. He is the author of numerous journal articles and book chapters on the political and economic sociology of the Palestinian diaspora and refugees; sociology of migration; transnationalism; politics of scientific research; civil society and elite formation and transitional justice. Among his recent books are: *From Relief and Works to Human Development: UNRWA and Palestinian Refugees after 60 Years* (Edited with L Takkenberg and L Hilal) (Routledge); *Palestinian Refugees: Identity, Space and Place in the Levant* (with A. Knudsen) Routledge; *Knowledge Production in the Arab World: The Impossible Promise* (with R. Arvanitis) (in Arabic, Beirut: CAUS and in English with Routledge -2016). He is the winner of 2014 Abdelhamid Shouman Award and 2015 Kuwait Award for social science. More recently he created the “Portal for Social impact of scientific research in/on the Arab World” (Athar). He is editor of *Idafat: the Arab Journal of Sociology* (Arabic) and has a forthcoming book: *Addressing the Rupture Between the Religious and Social Sciences: Is the Morning Coming Soon?* (Kuwait: Nohood Center).

**Dr. Constanze Binder – Associate Professor of Philosophy, Erasmus Institute for  
Philosophy and Economics**



**Constanze Binder** is associate professor in Philosophy at the Erasmus School of Philosophy and co-director of the Erasmus Institute for Philosophy and Economics (EIPE). Constanze studied Economics and Environmental System Science at Graz University and obtained a PhD in Philosophy at the University of Groningen. She previously taught in the Philosophy Departments of Groningen and Leiden University, worked at the Economics Department of the University of Osnabrück, and contributed to projects for the Austrian Federal Ministry of the Environment and the Austrian Human Dimensions Program. Constanze's research is on interface of philosophy and economics, with a particular focus on the analysis of freedom, responsibility and distributive justice in political philosophy and welfare economics, as well as on the ethics of individual and collective decision making in politics and economics.

**Dr. Shuruq Naguib – Associate Professor, Lancaster University, England.**



**Shuruq Naguib** received her PhD in Islamic Studies from the University of Manchester, Department of Middle Eastern Studies. Her research covers two key strands: the classical and pre-modern intellectual and textual traditions, particularly Qur'an hermeneutics and ritual law; and Muslim responses to modernity, with a focus on how 20<sup>th</sup> C and contemporary Muslim women scholars read the tradition to intellectually and socially develop their religious authority. She has written on ritual purity, metaphor in post-classical Qur'an interpretation and Arabic rhetoric, feminist hermeneutics of the Qur'an, and contemporary female exegetes and jurists in Islam, with special interest in Bint al-Shati'. She led a research project on women's contemporary readings of Islamic texts in Egypt and the UK (2012-2012) and was the Co-investigator on the AHRC/ESRC-funded project Representing Islam on Campus <https://www.soas.ac.uk/representingislamonthecampus/>. She is the Former Chair of the British Association for Islamic Studies (BRAIS), Chair of the Muslim Women's Council in the UK, and Associate Editor of the Encyclopaedia of the Qur'an Online (Brill).

**Mr. Mahmoud Ali Gomas Affifi, doctoral candidate, Religious Studies, Lancaster University**



My name is **Mahmoud Afifi**. I am currently studying my fourth year PhD in Religious Studies at Lancaster University of UK. My topic deals with the interpretation of Quran 4: 34 in connection with the treatment of wife abuse in Muslim communities across the UK. I received my undergraduate education at Al-Azhar University in Cairo in Islamic studies and English translation. I received my MA in Islamic Studies from Claremont Graduate University in California, USA 2012 on the topic of gender violence: an interpretive analysis of 4: 34. My academic interests are *qurānic* hermeneutics, Islamic feminism, and the study of young Imams in Britain.

**Dr. Heba Raouf Ezzat – Assistant Professor, Political Science, Ibn Haldun university  
Istanbul, Turkey**



**Heba Raouf Ezzat** is an assistant professor of political theory at Ibn Haldun University in the political science department in Istanbul, Turkey. For almost 30 years she taught politics at Cairo University. She was also an adjunct professor at the American University in Cairo (2006-2013) before she spent two years (2014-2016) at the Unit for Civil Society and Human Security at the London School of Economics (LSE). Following this, she moved to Istanbul in 2016, where she is currently based. Her academic writings as well as teaching cover a wide range of topics that include Islamic political theory, women and politics, global civil society, urban politics, cities and citizenships and Middle East politics.

Besides her teaching and writings, she established a Diploma for Public Policy and Child Rights in 2010 that was a project funded by the European Commission and coordinated between 4 Arab Universities and 4 European Universities. For that effort she was awarded the Prize for Outstanding Support of German-Egyptian Collaboration in Science and Innovation.

Since 2015 she supervised and introduced the full translation of the Liquid Modernity series of Zygmunt Bauman into Arabic. She herself translated Ziauddin Sardar's book on Mecca to Arabic. Her most latest work is a research paper in the "Project on the future of human rights in the Arab world" titled: "The Human rights movement and the Islamist: The Paths of Convergence and Divergence" with the Arab Reform Initiative/Paris, and forthcoming is a chapter titled "Re-imagining Egypt: The State of War" in a book on Contemporary thought in the Middle East due Spring 2021 from Routledge.