



1st International Conference on Islamic Scholasticism

Educational Implications of Past Islamic Scholarship for the Present Challenges of Higher Education



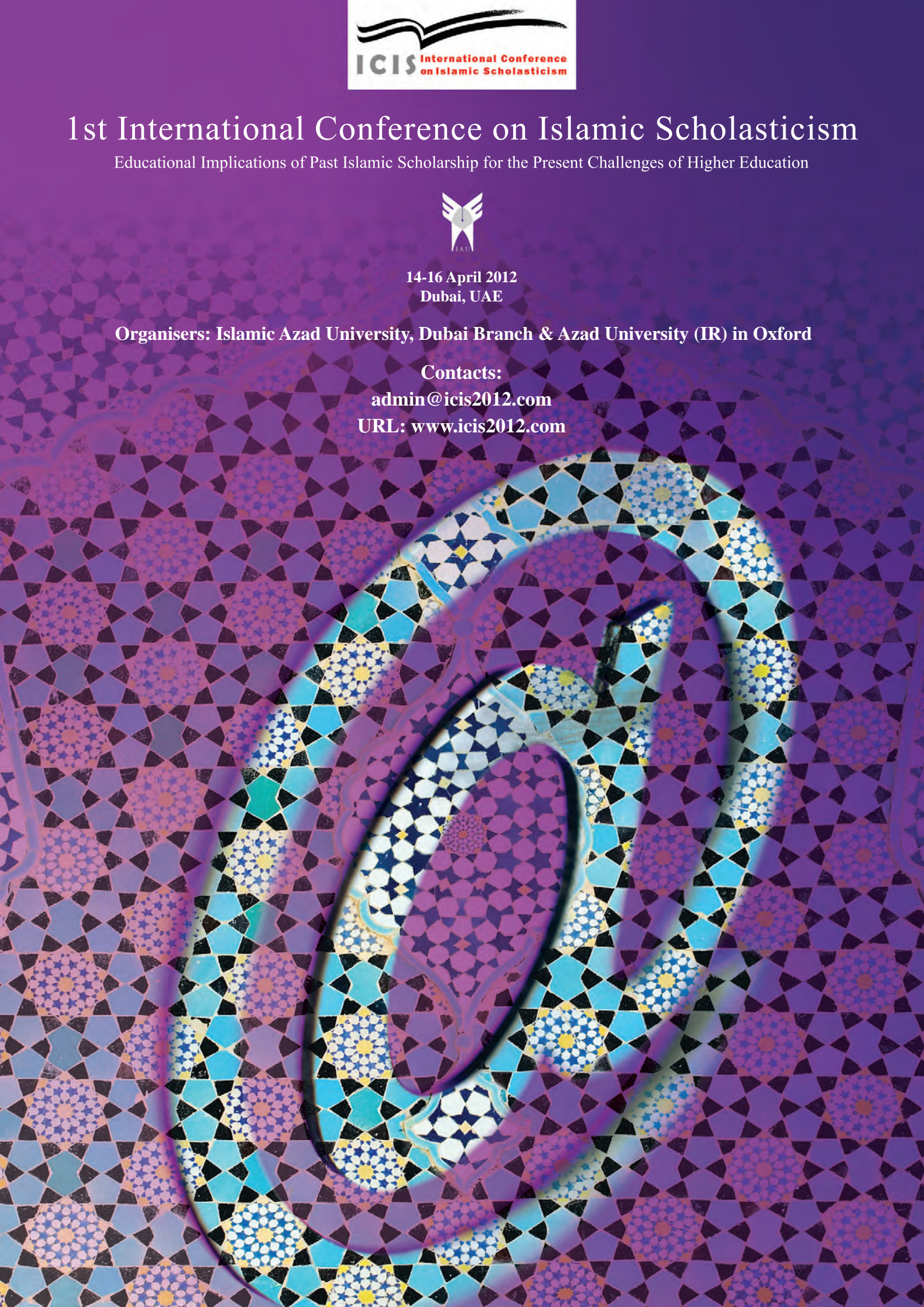
14-16 April 2012
Dubai, UAE

Organisers: Islamic Azad University, Dubai Branch & Azad University (IR) in Oxford

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In the name of God

International Conference on Islamic Scholasticism (ICIS 2012)

Conference Theme:

**Educational Implications of Past Islamic Scholarship for Contemporary
Higher Education**

***Organisers:* Islamic Azad University, Dubai Branch
and Azad University (IR) in Oxford**

***Conference Venue:* Islamic Azad University, Dubai Branch**

***Conference Dates:* 14-16 April 2012**

Introduction

More than ever before, Higher Education (HE) is confronting new challenges throughout the world. Knowledge is easily accessible through numerous institutionalised networks but wisdom is often more difficult to attain. Universities are seeking solutions to urgent questions and are redefining their mission. Standing at the crossroads, they are exploring both indigenous and imported ways of teaching.

Intellectual life flourished during the early centuries of Muslim civilisation. Islamic scholasticism refers here to educational traditions that arose during those early centuries of high intellectual achievement. Its particular scholarly contribution to educational development throughout the world from 750 to 1350 has been acknowledged as the 'mediaeval' Muslim scholarly tradition. It responded to the need for Muslim theologians to reconcile questions of faith and reason. The result of their work and the work of scholars who have followed in their tradition was a method of teaching that applied philosophical/dialectical techniques of questioning and disputation to issues of science as well as theology. It can be argued that the results of this scholarly tradition are still relevant today in educational establishments in many parts of the world.

In the internet age and the era of networked society, new perspectives on Higher Education need to be evaluated by a productive dialogue with our heritage. Balance can be achieved by examining contemporary issues from a traditional perspective. This can be done for a range of topics in Higher Education such as integrated teaching, tutorial education, authority and ownership of education, educational equity and governance, rights and scope of access to education, methodologies of educational engagement, curricular and extra-curricular activities, apprenticeship within and beyond education, the economics of education and ethics within education.

Islamic scholasticism and its subsequent scholarly traditions can open a new chapter in the debate on the future of Higher Education while the world is experiencing new demands. Current proposed models to confront challenges to HE are shown to have some limitations. On the other hand, the lessons learned from Islamic scholarly traditions have potential contributions for dealing with contemporary challenges to HE. Revisiting our intellectual origins and a critical understanding of past achievements may provide the basis for a critique of the enterprising spirit that dominates the educational world today.

This conference aims to trigger a challenging debate among scholars to search for more adequate models (in terms of philosophical/epistemological foundations, pedagogical and managerial models, curriculum, aims and values) for the future development of universities.

Aims of the conference

The main objective of the conference is to enhance and broaden the educational vision we hold with regard to possible solutions for HE problems and to identify pedagogical processes that are based on best practices and traditions. Overlapping effective practices and the common fundamental principles of higher education between the East and the West can also be a fertile ground for developing unifying links internationally.

Benefits

This conference is international in scope and will give participants the opportunity to meet with their academic peers from different corners of the world. The

interdisciplinary nature of the conference offers a broad-ranging forum by providing an unusual opportunity for professional scholars of Philosophy, Theology, History, Education and Higher Education Management to share their thoughts and research. All scholars including postgraduate students in Masters and PhD programmes are welcome to submit abstracts for consideration.

Theme and Scope

The main themes of ICIS 2012 are:

- Traditional Islamic Scholasticism and its Contribution to Facing Contemporary Challenges to Higher Education
- Epistemological Foundations of Education in the Islamic Scholarly Past and their Value for the Present Challenges to Higher Education (Issues in Islamic Scholasticism, Philosophy of Education, Aims and Objectives of Education, Teaching Methods, Curriculum, Assessment, Management)

Possible areas of discussion for paper submission and special sessions might include the following topics, but are by no means limited to them:

- Dialogue between Traditional Religious Educational Institutions (e.g. Seminaries, Madrasah, Mosques) and Modern Education Centers
- Dialogue between Islamic, Christian, Far Eastern and Other Traditions of Scholasticism
- Perspectives on Research Goals in Universities such as (1) Developing Skills and Acquiring Qualifications versus (2) Making a Contribution to Knowledge
- Individual Tutorials versus Classroom Lectures
- Curriculum and Evaluation from the Perspective of Traditional Scholasticism (Curriculum Development, New Approach to Evaluation, Holistic Evaluation, Multicultural Issues in Curriculum and Evaluation)
- Integration of Knowledge (New Theories, Approaches to the Islamisation of Knowledge, Modalities in Teaching and Learning, Application of Integration of Knowledge within Muslim Education)
- University Teacher Training in Islamic Education (Curriculum and Pedagogy, Upgrading of Teaching Skills, Pedagogical Contents, Theories, Language and Teaching, Teacher Readiness, In-Service Training and Motivation)
- Religious Schools or Madrasah Education (Certification Issues, Informal and Semi-Formal Education, Evaluation of Madrasah Environment, Education and Social Services)
- Morals and Akhlaq (Ethics) in Islamic Scholasticism (Human Capital, Human Development, Adolescence, Knowledge and its Application, Application of Moral Studies, Research in Akhlaq and Akhlaq Development, Mass Media and Human Development)
- Humanities (ADAB) in the Scholarly Tradition
- The Role of Women in the Development of the Scholarly Tradition
- Traditional Scholasticism and the Rationality of Ancient Sciences
- Customized Education versus Mass Education

Important dates:

Deadline for submission of proposals for Special Session
15 November 2011

Deadline for submission of abstracts
2 December 2011 (Extended to 16/12/2011)

Acceptance/rejection notification (abstracts)
19 December 2011

Deadline for submission of full-length papers
22 January 2012

Final camera-ready papers
27 February 2012

Pre-Conference Expert Panel (by invitation)
17, 18 December 2011

ICIS Conference dates
14-16 April 2012

For more information you can visit:

www.ICIS2012.com
<http://www.auo.org.uk/ICIS2012>
<http://iau.ae/ICIS2012>

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Main themes of the conference:

- Foundations of higher education (aims, values, mission, philosophy etc) in the past Islamic educational prosperity and their relevance for the present challenges of higher education
- Structures and methods (pedagogy, research, autonomy, management and administration etc) of higher education in the medieval Islamic period and their implications for the contemporary challenges of higher education.

Important dates:

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Notification of abstract acceptance/rejection: 19 December 2011

Deadline for full paper submission: 22 January 2012

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