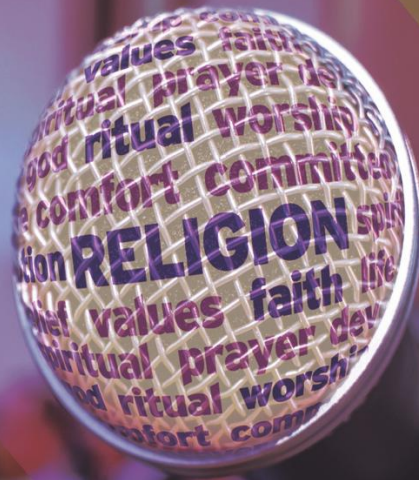


The Research Center for Islamic Legislation and Ethics
invites you to its 6th Annual International Conference:

RELIGIOUS DISCOURSE IN THE PUBLIC SPHERE: PRINCIPLES AND REALITY



March 17th, 2018
Auditorium, College of Islamic Studies
Hamad Bin Khalifa University
Doha, Qatar



مركز دراسات التشريع
الإسلامي والأخلاقي

Research Center for Islamic
Legislation and Ethics

عضو في جامعة حمد بن خليفة
Member of Hamad Bin Khalifa University



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ABOUT CILE

The Research Center for Islamic Legislation and Ethics (CILE) leads the reform and renewal of contemporary Islamic legal and ethical thought and behavior by contributing a sustainable ethical framework for addressing contemporary global challenges. CILE's initiative is maintained by the production, dissemination and application of Islamic ethical thought and behavior. This is achieved by engaging scholars of text and scholars of context to bring about a transformative ethical school of thought.

Launched in January 2012, CILE is a member of the College of Islamic Studies within Hamad Bin Khalifa University of Qatar Foundation. The Center specializes in Islamic Legislation and Ethics with a focus on applied ethics in the fields of: Methodology, Arts, Environment, Economics, Education, Food, Gender, Media, Bioethics, Psychology, Politics, and Migration and Human Rights.

Web: www.cilecenter.org
Email: office@cilecenter.org



CONFERENCE MESSAGE

CILE 6th Annual International Conference

In the name of Allah, the Merciful, the Compassionate and may Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon Prophet Muhammad and all Messengers of Allah! Distinguished guests and honorable participants peace be upon you. Please accept our upmost gratitude to you for your attendance and continuous support of our activities.

Since 2012, CILE has become an increasingly recognized and established institution for the renewal of contemporary Islamic legal and ethical thought towards reforming the reality for the better. CILE applies creative methods and mechanisms rooted in both the Islamic tradition and the latest achievements of human knowledge and experience. CILE is moving towards becoming a transformative school of thought in Islamic legislation and ethics, one that provides systematic solutions to contemporary problems from legislative and ethical perspectives.

Previous CILE conferences have addressed a myriad of contemporary issues pertaining to ethics in arts, politics, gender, economics, migration and human rights, and biomedicine. Renowned scholars from various countries and different academic and cultural backgrounds have engaged in deep intellectual debate over these issues and have provided their well-thought insights. The 2018 CILE Annual International Conference will address the theme of “Religious Discourse in the Public Sphere: Principles and Reality”.

The significance of this conference theme stems from the fact that religions and religious discourses, though they are very diverse, are becoming increasingly influential in public life. Moreover, digital means of information and communication have had a profound affect on religious belief, discourse and practice; and opened new forms of religious faith and practice dynamics beyond the traditional boundaries. The public sphere has also changed substantially in the digital age. The ICT and social media have transformed the characterization and framework of the public sphere, making it an open space without geographical borders and with either less or no control of the nation state. Consequently, traditional religious discourse and authorities, together with the previously longstanding perception of the public sphere are being greatly challenged and many questions and critical issues around them are emerging.

The reality of both religious discourse and public sphere, whether past or present, is extremely complex and dynamic. The principles governing religious discourse in the public sphere are considered by many scholars to be deeply influenced by three major factors - that of politics, money and media. Understanding the concepts and dynamics between modern religious discourse, public spheres, the reality, the principles and how they are shaped by the digital means of information and communications are therefore worthy of further investigation. Within all of this, ethical perspectives remain essential - predominantly in reconciling the gap between reality and principles; and in preventing the influences of the power of politics, money and media.



With this in mind, scholars, researchers and experts from across a variety of disciplines including religion, philosophy, sociology, anthropology, political sciences and humanities have been invited to a dialogue, debate and reflection on the above theme and related issues; to present their research; and to discuss their findings, theory and methodology in a lively and engaging environment.

The core mission of our conference is threefold:

to address critical theoretical as well as methodological questions regarding the meaning, scope, challenges, dynamics, authorities, reality, principles and case studies of religious discourse in the public sphere, with particular emphasis on the digital age;

to facilitate scholarly exchange and intellectual debate among scholars and the audience on the topics and issues; and

to contribute to the substantive knowledge and understanding of contemporary emerging phenomena from an ethical perspective.

The conference embraces and endorses a broad, ambitious view of addressing the topic from a multidisciplinary approach and will engage scholars, experts and the audience in this process face-to-face; online via live stream in English, Arabic and French; and by social media.

The 6th CILE Annual International Conference will feature a keynote address session with one outstanding guest speaker. This will be followed by Q&A session. There will also be two thematic panels. Each panel will last 2 hours and both will include 4 presentations. This will allow as much time as possible for debate and discussion. (Please see program)

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, once again thank you very much for attending our conference; we hope you will benefit from the discussions and find the conference fruitful and stimulating.



CONFERENCE PROGRAM

17 March 2018, CIS Auditorium

Registration and Opening Session		
09:00 – 09:30	<i>Registration</i>	CILE & CAN
09:30 – 09:40	<i>MC Remarks</i>	Rawan Althabatah - CILE
09:40 – 09:50	<i>Qur'an Recitation</i>	Sh. Mohamed Ibrahim Khalil – Education City Mosque (ECM)
09:50 – 10:05	<i>Opening Speech</i>	Dr. Emad Eldin Shahin - Dean CIS, Qatar
10:05 – 10:10	<i>Speech by CAN</i>	CAN Representative
10:10 – 10:15	<i>Speech by President of CIS Student Council, Qatar</i>	Sulaiman Timbo Bah
10:15 – 10:25	<i>Keynote Address Moderator's Introduction</i>	Dr. Fethi B Jomaa Ahmed - CILE
10:25 – 11:15	<i>Keynote Address</i>	Sh. Abdelfattah Mourou- Tunisia
11:15 - 12:00	<i>Q&A</i>	
12:00 – 13:00	<i>Break & Dhuhr Prayer</i>	Lunch

Plenary Session 1:	Theorizing Religious Discourse and Public Sphere: Concepts, parameters and authorities	
13:00 – 13:05	<i>Moderator's Introduction</i>	Dr. Mohammed Ghaly - CILE
13:05 – 13:20	<i>The Re-emergence of Religion within a New Definition of Public Sphere</i>	Dr. Bassem Rai - Lebanon
13:20 – 13:35	<i>Islamic Public Reason or the Islamic Secular: Comparing Two Models of Islam in the Public Sphere</i>	Dr. Sohaira Siddiqui – Georgetown Univ. Qatar
13:35 – 13:50	<i>Ramifications of Ethical Discussion on HIV/AIDS in the Muslim Public Sphere</i>	Sheikh Farouq Fareez – CIS, Qatar
13:50 – 14:05	<i>Inquisitive Knowledge: Public Sphere and the End of Tradition</i>	Dr. Mu'taz Al Khatib – CILE
14:05 – 15:05	<i>Discussion</i>	
15:05 – 15:10	<i>Moderator's rapup</i>	Dr. Mohammed Ghaly - CILE
15:10 - 15:30	<i>Break & Asr Prayer</i>	



Plenary		
Religious Discourse and the Public Sphere: Dynamics and Influences		
Session 2:		
15:30 – 15:35	Moderator’s Introduction	Dr. Ray Jureidini - CILE
15:35 - 15:50	Mainstreaming- Islam in the Digital Age	Dr. Dale Eickelman - USA
15:50 – 16:05	Media, the Arab Spring and the Could Have been Public Sphere	HE Lolwah R. Al Khater
16:05 – 16:20	The Digital Ummah on Social Media: Reactions on the Case of Jerusalem	Youssof Salhen – CIS, Qatar
16:20 – 16:35	Islamic Religious Discourse in Facebook: An Exegetical Hermeneutic Study of Two Accounts	Dr. Ibrahim M Zein – CIS, Qatar
16:35 – 17:35	Discussion	
17:35 - 17:40	Moderator’s rapup	Dr. Ray Jureidini - CILE
17:40 – 18:00	Closing Speech	Sh. Chauki Lazhar – CILE Deputy Director

OPENING SPEECH



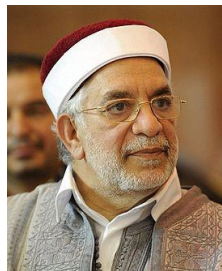
Dean of the College of Islamic Studies

Dr. Emad El-Din Shahin

Dr. Emad El-Din Shahin is the Dean of the College of Islamic Studies (CIS), Hamad bin Khalifa University, Qatar Foundation. Before joining CIS, he was the Hasib Sabbagh Distinguished Visiting Chair of Arabic and Islamic Studies and a visiting professor of Political Science at the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University. Shahin holds a Ph.D. from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, M.A. and BA from the American University in Cairo. He has taught in leading universities including Harvard, Notre Dame, George Washington, and Boston University. Shahin was a Distinguished Visiting Scholar at Columbia University and public policy scholar at The Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. He has authored, co-authored and co-edited six books and has more than 50 scholarly publications including journal articles, book chapters and encyclopedia entries. He is the editor-in-chief of The Oxford Encyclopedia of Islam and Politics and co-editor with John L. Esposito of The Oxford Handbook of Islam and Politics.



KEYNOTE ADDRESS SESSION



Keynote Speaker

Sh. Abdel Fattah Mourou

Sheikh Abdelfattah Mourou was born in Tunisia in 1948, and has four children. He has been the First Vice President of the Assembly of the Representatives of the People since 2014. Sheikh Mourou graduated from the University of Tunis in 1970 where he studied law. He served as a judge until 1977 then resigned to work as a lawyer thus far. Sheikh Mourou is one of the most prominent politicians and preachers in Tunisia and one of the founders of the Islamic Movement there. He was arrested in 1991 and spent two years in prison. After release, he retired from politics until the toppling of the regime of Zine El Abidine Ben Ali by a popular uprising in January 2011. After the revolution, Sheikh Mourou resumed his political activity and was appointed as the Vice President of the Ennahdha Party in Tunisia. He participated in the 2014 legislative elections in Tunisia and secured a seat in the Assembly of the Representatives of the People. Sheikh Abdelfattah Mourou speaks French, German as well as Arabic and is a talented debater. He is well cultured; known for his open mindedness towards other cultures. Sheikh Abdelfattah traveled to many countries in the world on official, preaching and intellectual missions and participated in many seminars and conferences. He also delivered a large number of lectures and preaches, and participated in many television and radio programs. According to Sheikh Abdelfattah Mourou, the Islamic movement in Tunisia- like other Islamic movements which were brought to power by voters in other countries- should focus on the two present propounded priorities of protecting the pluralistic democratic entity of the society, and confronting every dictatorial thought that might suppress diversity.



Moderator

Dr. Fethi Ahmed

He is a New Zealander who grew up in Tunisia and completed his education in sociology and Islamic Studies overseas. He completed his BA in 1992 majoring in Applied Sociology and Statistics, his MA in 1997 majoring in Islamic Studies and his PhD in 2003 specializing in Political Sociology. He also holds certificates in Small Business Management, Treaty of Waitangi, and Malaysian Language and Studies. Dr Ahmed speaks Arabic, English, French and Malay. He worked as an Assistant Professor at the International Islamic University in Malaysia, and as an International Student Advisor, a Consultant and Casual Lecturer at the University of Auckland in New Zealand. He also worked as an Academic Director with the Saudi Arabian Cultural Mission in New Zealand. As a volunteer, he led Al-Manar Organization, the Center for Education and Development, and was the producer and presenter of Noor English/Arabic Radio program in New Zealand. Dr Ahmed has been engaged in public speaking in New Zealand, Australia, Malaysia, Tunisia and Qatar. He delivered many specialized lectures and seminars and participated in several international conferences and workshops. His main research interests include contemporary issues in Sociology and Muslim societies, Applied Ethics, and Islamic Thought and Civilization and he has a number of publications to his name. Dr Ahmed believes that knowledge is power and ethics is paramount.



PARTICIPANTS



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Panelist

Dr. Bassem Rai



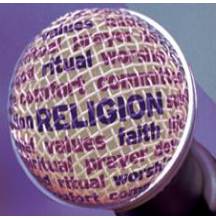
Dr. Bassem El Rai has received his Ph.D. from The University of Münster, Germany. He is currently a lecturer at the Lebanese University, Saint Joseph University, and The Holy Spirit University of Kaslik. His research interests include political philosophy, the philosophy of religion, and hermeneutics. He has presented several papers at international conferences and seminars, particularly on the relation between religion and society. He has various academic publications including *The 1943 Pact, The State Society in Contemporary Debate, and At the Frontiers of Knowledge: An Introduction to Philosophy* (translated from German), among others. He is active in social debates concerning civil society and peaceful coexistence in diverse societies.



Panelist

Dr. Sohaira Siddiqui

Dr. Sohaira Siddiqui is an Assistant Professor of Theology at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service in Qatar. In 2014 she received her doctorate in Religious Studies from the University of California Santa Barbara. Her first monograph, *Knowledge, Law and Politics: An Intellectual Portrait of al-Juwayni*, analyzes the thought of the 11th century jurist and theologian Abu Ma'ali al-Juwayni through a close reading of his legal, political and theological treatises. She has published a series of shorter articles on comparative Islamic political thought in the 11th century, scholarly connections and mechanisms of critique in the medieval period, and modern arguments for legal reform. She is also the editor of a forthcoming volume entitled *Locating the Shari'a: Legal Fluidity in Theory, History and Practice*. She currently has two research projects. The first is a translation and commentary of al-Juwayni's treatise entitled, *Kitab al-Ijtihad*, one of the earliest extant treatises discussing the juristic debate regarding the ontological multiplicity of truth. The second project focuses on the juridical thought of some of the first Muslim judges to serve on the High Courts in British India during the 17th and 18th centuries. This project aims to analyze the contestations to Anglo-Muhammadan law once Muslim jurists were afforded the opportunity to contribute to its adjudication. Her research interests include classical Islamic legal theory, classical Islamic political thought, the development and intersection of legal thought and political thought from the 9th to 11th centuries, Islamic Law under colonialism, and secularism and modernity in relation to Islamic law and Muslims in the West. She has previously taught courses in Religion, Islamic Law and Islamic History at the University of Saskatchewan and has held fellowships at Cambridge University and Harvard Law School.



Panelist

Sheikh Farouq Fareez



Sheikh Farouq Fareez is currently a graduate student pursuing his master's degree in Islamic Thought and Applied Ethics at Hamad Bin Khalifa University, Doha, Qatar. He has received a B.A Honors in Comparative Religion and Usuluddin from the International Islamic University of Malaysia. Farouq is also actively involved in community engagement programs in Singapore through his stints at the Singapore Islamic Scholars and Religious Teachers Association (Pergas) and the Religious Rehabilitation Group (RRG) as a Community Development Executive. He is currently a member of the CILE Alumni Network (CAN), a global platform for members to address contemporary ethical challenges by reflection, research and dialogue. His area of interest involves issues concerning Islam, Human Rights and Ethics.



Panelist

Dr. Mu'taz Al Khatib

Dr. Mu'taz Al Khatib is Assistant Professor of Methodology and Ethics at CILE. He holds a BA in Islamic Studies, from Damascus (1997) and a BA in Arabic literature from Al-Azhar University, Cairo (1998). He received his MA in 2002 and PhD in 2009 on "The Textual Critical Approach of Hadith: A Study into the Methods of Traditionalists (*Muhaddithun*) & Legal Theorists (*Usuliyun*)", published in Beirut, 2011. Mu'taz is a founding member of al-Multaqah al-Fikri li al-Ibdaa' (Intellectual Forum for Innovation, 1999), and was the anchor of *Alsharia and Life* program, on Al Jazeera channel (2004-2013). He served as Editor-in-Chief of "Islam and Contemporary Affairs" at IslamOnline.net (2003-2008). He was a visiting fellow at ZMO, Berlin (2006), and visiting scholar at the Forum Transregionale Studien, Berlin (2012-2013). Mu'taz has also been a visiting lecturer at the Islamic University of Beirut and Qatar University. He has presented invited lectures at various academic institutions including Berkeley School of Law (Boalt Hall) at the University of California; Institute for Transregional Study of the Contemporary Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia at Princeton University; Institute for the Near and Middle East at the University of Ludwig-Maximilians, Munich; and the University of Osnabrück, Germany. He is reviewer for a number of journals including Islamization of Knowledge from the International Institute of Islamic Thought; Journal of *al-Tajdīd* from the International Islamic University, Malaysia; and the Arab Center for Research & Policy Studies, Qatar. Mu'taz is also author and editor of several books and over twenty academic articles on Hadith criticism, Islamic interpretation methods, Islamic intellectual history, and Islamic Law. He has written numerous journal articles for Arabic language newspapers and magazines, including *Al-Hayat*, *Weghat Nazar*, and *al-Manār al-Jadīd*.

SESSION 2: Religious Discourse and the Public Sphere: Dynamics and Influences

PARTICIPANTS



Moderator

Dr. Ray Jureidini

Dr Ray Jureidini is a recent appointment as Professor of Migration, Human Rights and Ethics at CILE. He grew up in Australia, completing his studies in industrial and economic sociology at the Flinders University of South Australia. He completed his BA in 1977, majoring in sociology and psychology; first class Honours in sociology with a thesis on producer cooperatives in 1979; PhD thesis on Moral Values in Economic Life: a case study of life insurance and superannuation (1987). His research interests include migration, human and labour rights, human trafficking, gender discrimination, racism and xenophobia. In the 1990s, he was a co-founder and vice-chairman of the Australian Arabic Council, established to counter anti-Arab racism in Australia, as well as founder and editor of the Journal of Arabic, Islamic and Middle East Studies. After teaching Sociology in five universities in Australia, he spent 6 years at the American University of Beirut from 1999 where he began researching and publishing on human rights abuses of migrant domestic workers in Lebanon. At the American University in Cairo from 2005, he became director of the Center for Migration and Refugee Studies in 2008 and conducted a number of research projects on migrant and refugee issues. In 2011-14, he returned to Lebanon at the Institute for Migration Studies at the Lebanese American University. In 2012-13 he served one year as consultant to the Migrant Worker Welfare Initiative at the Qatar Foundation in Doha, contributing to the QF Standards for Migrant Worker Welfare for contractors and sub-contractors and completing a report on labor recruitment to Qatar.



Panelist

Dr. Dale Eickelman



Dr. Dale F. Eickelman is Ralph and Richard Lazarus Professor of Anthropology and Human Relations Emeritus at Dartmouth College, USA. His publications include *Moroccan Islam: Tradition and Society in a Pilgrimage Center* (1976; Arabic, 1989), *Muslim Travelers: Pilgrimage, Migration, and the Religious Imagination* (co-edited with James Piscatori, 1990), *Public Islam and the Common Good* (co-edited with Armando Salvatore, 2002), *Muslim Politics* (co-authored with James Piscatori, new ed., 2003), *The Middle East and Central Asia: An Anthropological Approach*, 4th ed. (2002), *New Media in the Muslim World: The Emerging Public Sphere* (co-edited with Jon Anderson, 2nd ed., 2003), *Knowledge and Power in Morocco* (1985, Arabic 2009), and *Higher Education Investment in the Arab States of the Gulf: Strategies for Excellence and Diversity* (co-edited with Rogaia Mustafa Abusharaf (2017), and 120 articles and book chapters. A former President of the Middle East Studies Association of North America, Fellow of the Institute for Advanced Study (Princeton), and of the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin, Professor Eickelman currently serves as senior advisor to Kuwait's first private liberal arts university, the American University of Kuwait. In 2009, he was named a Carnegie Scholar for a two-year period, and in 2011 he received the Distinguished Scholar Award from the Middle East Section of the American Anthropological Association.

Panelist

HE Lolwah R. Al Khater



Lolwah R M Alkhater is the Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the State of Qatar. Before her appointment as the Spokesperson, Lolwah joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as Minister Plenipotentiary. Lolwah also served as the Director of Planning and Quality at Qatar Tourism Authority and as a Research Project Manager at Qatar Foundation. Besides the official capacity, Ms. Alkhater has been working as an independent policy analyst participating in conferences and multiple publications and she is the co-editor of *"Policy-making in a Transformative State: the case of Qatar"*, a book published by Palgrave Macmillan. Moreover, Lolwah worked as a part-time lecturer at Doha Institute for Graduate Studies and she is a Research Associate at The Oxford Gulf and Arabian Peninsula Forum at St. Antony's College at the University of Oxford. Ms. Alkhater is also a board member at The Institute for Palestine Studies. Lolwah holds a Master's of Science in Computing and a Master's of Arts in Public Policy and she is a DPhil Candidate at the University of Oxford in the area of Oriental Studies looking at the question of Islam and Modernity in the context of the Arab Nahda (arab awakening).



Panelist

Youssef Salhen

Youssef Salhen is writing his MA thesis on “online fatwa” at the College of Islamic Studies, Hamad Bin Khalifa University. He graduated from al-Azhar University (2015) majoring in Islamic Studies in English. He studied translation at the American University in Cairo (2013-2014) and was granted a mini-scholarship to study religious pluralism at Temple University (2014), USA. Youssef’s current research interest is Islam in the digital age. In the same academic area, Youssef works as a research assistant for the program of Islamic Civilization and Muslim Societies in the College of Islamic Studies at Hamad Bin Khalifa University.



Panelist

Dr. Ibrahim Mohamed Zein

Dr. Ibrahim Mohamed Zein is currently a Professor of Islamic Studies and Comparative Religion, College of Islamic Studies at Hamad Bin Khalifa University in Qatar. He was the former dean of the Faculty of Islamic Revealed Knowledge and Human Sciences and the International Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilization at the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM), Kuala Lumpur. He obtained a B.A. (Hons) in Philosophy from the University of Khartoum in 1980, Master of Arts in Philosophy from the University of Khartoum in 1984, Master of Arts in Religion from Temple University in 1986 and a Doctorate of Philosophy in Religion from Temple University in 1989. He wrote numerous articles and book reviews. Through his academic administration of Islamic Studies programs, supervision of postgraduate research and teaching he has made a definite impact on the field. His first book was published in 1983 entitled “Al- Sultah fi Fikr Al-Muslimin”.



CLOSING SPEECH



Deputy Director

Sh. Chauki Lazhar

Chauki Lazhar, originally from Belgium, is Deputy Director of CILE. He is a member of the International Union of Muslim Scholars (IUMS) and Lecturer in Applied Islamic Sciences at CIET Institute in Gent, Belgium. He read Islamic Studies at the European Institute of Human Science in Chateau Chinon and Paris, France (2003-2010) where he also memorized the entire Qur'an. He holds a BA cum laude (with honours) in *Sharia* and Theology and a MA summa cum laude (with highest honours) in *Fiqh* and *Usul al-Fiqh*, and is currently a doctoral researcher in Islamic Law at the University of Aberdeen, United Kingdom. Chauki has presented lectures at several institutes in Belgium and France since 2007. In 2012 he was Lecturer in Islamic Sciences at Group T, international University College Leuven, Belgium. Chauki has taught a wide range of courses including Islamic Law, Theology, Quranic Exegeses (*Tafsir*), Principles of Islamic Law and Jurisprudence (*Usul al-Fiqh*), *Maqasid al Sharia*, *Quran* and *Hadith* studies. His research interests in the field of Islamic Studies include Islamic Theology, Spirituality, Law and Thought. Latest publications: "The need for reform of *Usûl al Fiqh* in Modern Times" Arab Network for Research and Publishing (2016); "Gender Differentiation in Islamic Rulings, A Thorough Review of the Concept of Femininity in Islam", co-authored, *al Mudawwanah*, Issue 15 (2018); "Women's Prayer in the Mosque, the Specificities of Femininity that Prevent from the Benefit of Praying in the Mosque, Between Truth and Illusion", Journal of Islamic Studies and Thought for Specialized Researches, Volume 4, (2018); "The Development of Contemporary Theorizations of Sharia Objectives", Journal of Islamization of Knowledge, Issue 90 (2018).

Sat 17 March 2018

CIS Auditorium, Education City, Doha, Qatar



office@cilecenter.org www.cilecenter.org