

Call for Papers

The Fifth International Conference on
ISLAM IN THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD:
THE GÜLEN MOVEMENT IN THOUGHT AND PRACTICE
Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

March 6-7, 2009

In the contemporary world, Muslim communities are undergoing radical social, economic, political and intellectual change. The underlying goal of this conference is to examine the issues facing the contemporary Muslim world in transition and the relations between Islam and the West. In particular, the conference explores the ideas of Fethullah Gülen – a Turkish Muslim scholar, author and education activist – and the impact of the civic projects initiated by participants in a social phenomenon called the Gülen movement. Originating in Turkey but becoming increasingly transnational, the Gülen movement has a universal educational and interfaith agenda that aims to promote creative and positive relations between the Muslim world and the West, and to make a constructive contribution to the dialogue of civilizations, the reconciliation of science and religion, global education initiatives, democracy, and religious plurality.

CONFERENCE THEMES

The conference topics of interest include, but are not limited to the following:

1. Education in contemporary societies
2. Reconciliation of science and religion
3. Sufism and Islamic mysticism
4. Interfaith and intercultural dialogue, tolerance and peace
5. Understanding of the historical dynamics and references of coexistence, multiculturalism and the Ottoman example
6. The resolution of social, ethnic, and religious conflict in the modern world, and democracy
7. Countering terror, radicalism and violence
8. Interpretation of Qur'an and its relationship to science, reason, faith, and religion
9. Inculcating faith by teaching (tabligh) and by example (tamsil)
10. Muslim integration in the West
11. The changing role of women in society and in public life
12. Eradicating poverty, and charity organizations
13. Faith based social movements and mass communication

SUBMISSION AND PUBLICATION GUIDELINES

Authors should submit an abstract (250-400) and bio. (approximately 150 words) to the conference coordinator by December 20, 2008. Electronic submission via email is preferred. The editorial committee will review abstracts and respond to submitters by January 15, 2009.

The authors of the accepted proposals should submit their full papers (of minimum 3000 and maximum 6000 words) to the conference coordinator by January 31, 2009. Electronic submission via email is preferred. Authors who choose to submit hard copies are responsible for the timely delivery of their submissions by the same deadline. The editorial board will evaluate and ask authors to revise their papers (if needed) and resubmit camera ready copies by February 15, 2009. The conference organizers reserve the right to remove from the proposed program papers that are not received by the published deadlines or that fail to respond to the comments of the editorial board. The accepted papers will be published on the conference webpage and as conference proceedings.

The coverage of the conference will be publicized on the related web page www.fethullahgulenconference.org.

All authors are requested to comply with the following guidelines:

- References to the Qur'an and the Hadith and the works of Fethullah Gülen are to be cited in relevant articles.
- Word count should be minimum 3,000 and maximum 6,000.
- The Organizing Committee will provide interested contributors with the electronic and printed version of several resources, such as books and articles related to conference themes, to facilitate essay writing. (for more, see: www.fethullahgulen.org and www.fethullahgulenconference.org)

TRAVEL ASSISTANCE

A limited amount of travel funds that cover travel and/or accommodation expenses are available. In order to apply, please fill out the application form and submit with your paper.

CONFERENCE COORDINATOR

For further information please refer to the web page: www.fethullahgulenconference.org or contact:

Coordinator
2008 Gülen Movement Conference at Baton Rouge
7712 Goodwood Blvd
Baton Rouge, LA 70806
Email: coordinator@fethullahgulenconference.org

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