

Conference and Call for Papers

***Islam in the Contemporary World: The Fethullah Gülen
Movement in Thought and Practice***

November 12-13, 2005

Rice University, Houston, Texas

The Boniuk Center for the Study and Advancement of Religious Tolerance at Rice University, the A. D. Bruce Religion Center University of Houston and the Institute of Interfaith Dialog, Texas, are sponsoring a conference on the activities of Fethullah Gülen and contributions to interfaith dialogue, tolerance, and education.

Objective

The conference aims to explore the appeal, meaning, and impact of Fethullah Gülen and the Gülen movement on Turkish, regional, and – increasingly – global societies.

Conference Themes

The following possible themes suggest the range of possible issues that paper proposers are invited to address. These are neither definitive nor exhaustive:

Fethullah Gülen's and the Gülen movement's views and practices related to the:

- a. teaching and interpretation of Islamic principles and issues
- b. interpretation of the Qur'an, roles and relationships of science, reason, faith, and religion
- c. Sufism
- d. Turkish "Muslimness"
- e. education in contemporary societies
- f. interfaith and intercultural dialogue, tolerance and peace
- g. understanding of the historical dynamics and references of tolerance, multiculturalism and the Ottoman example
- h. terrorism, coercion, and violence
- i. jihad
- j. the resolution of social, ethnic, and religious conflict in the modern world, and democracy

- k. inculcating faith by teaching (*tabligh*) and by example (*tamsil*)
- l. approaches to universal ethical values
- m. Turkey's coexistence with or integration into the European Union
- n. The changing role of women in society and in public life.

Note for Articles, Deadlines and Publication

Proposed titles and an abstract (maximum of 500 words, including an indication of sources) should be received by July 15, 2005.

Abstracts will be evaluated by the conference's editorial board and the authors of accepted abstracts will be asked to prepare papers of minimum 3000 words, due by September 15, 2005. The conference organizers reserve the right to remove from the proposed program papers not received by the due date. An honorarium will be paid for accepted papers presented at the conference.

An Essay-Writing Competition will be organized among submissions from graduate students and the prizes below will be awarded to the winners. Research advisors are invited to encourage their students to take part in the essay writing competition.

The prizes are:

- 1st place \$ 1,500.00
- 2nd place \$ 1,250.00
- 3rd place \$ 1,000.00
- 4th place (awarded to 5 persons) \$ 400.00

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.

The articles should be sent in the "APA Style".

The Organizing Committee will send individuals 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)

Conference and Social Activities

Conference receptions for the participants, special guests and hosts will take place on

the evening of November 11 and November 13. Expenses for the flights to and accommodation in Houston, airport pick-ups and meals, and organized sight-seeing trips in and around Houston will be met by the organizing committee.

Conference Coordinator

For further information please refer to the web page:

www.fethullahgulenconference.org

or contact the coordinator:

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