

# Intellectual Discourse

---

Volume 31

Number 1

2023



**International Islamic University Malaysia**  
<https://journals.iium.edu.my/intdiscourse/index.php/id>

# *Intellectual Discourse*

---

Volume 31

Number 1

2023

## **Editor-in-Chief**

Danial Mohd Yusof  
(Malaysia)

## **Editor**

Tunku Mohar Mokhtar  
(Malaysia)

## **Associate Editors**

Anke Iman Bouzenita (Oman)  
Khairil Izamin Ahmad (Malaysia)  
Saodah Wok (Malaysia)

## **Book Review Editor**

Mohd. Helmi Bin Mohd Sobri  
(Malaysia)

---

## **Editorial Board**

Abdul Kabir Hussain Solihu (Nigeria)  
Badri Najib Zubir (Malaysia)  
Daniel J. Christie (USA)  
Habibul H. Khondker (UAE)  
Hazizan Md. Noon (Malaysia)  
Hussain Mutalib (Singapore)  
Ibrahim M. Zein (Qatar)  
James D. Frankel (China)  
Kenneth Christie (Canada)  
Nor Faridah Abdul Manaf (Malaysia)  
Rahmah Bt Ahmad H. Osman  
(Malaysia)  
Serdar Demirel (Turkey)

Syed Farid Alatas (Singapore)  
Thameem Ushama (Malaysia)

## **International Advisory Board**

Anis Malik Thoha (Indonesia)  
Chandra Muzaffar (Malaysia)  
Fahimul Quadir (Canada)  
Habib Zafarullah (Australia)  
John O. Voll (USA)  
Muhammad al-Ghazali (Pakistan)  
Muhammad K. Khalifa (Qatar)  
Redzuan Othman (Malaysia)

## **Founding Editor**

Afar Afaq Ansari (USA)

---

*Intellectual Discourse* is a highly respected, academic refereed journal of the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM). It is published twice a year by the IIUM Press, IIUM, and contains reflections, articles, research notes and review articles representing the disciplines, methods and viewpoints of the Muslim world.

*Intellectual Discourse* is abstracted in *SCOPUS*, *ProQuest*, *International Political Science Abstracts*, *Peace Research Abstracts Journal*, *Muslim World Book Review*, *Bibliography of Asian Studies*, *Index Islamicus*, *Religious and Theological Abstracts*, *ATLA Religion Database*, *MyCite*, *ISC* and *EBSCO*.

ISSN 0128-4878 (Print); ISSN 2289-5639 (Online)

<https://journals.iium.edu.my/intdiscourse/index.php/id>

Email: [intdiscourse@iium.edu.my](mailto:intdiscourse@iium.edu.my); [intdiscourse@yahoo.com](mailto:intdiscourse@yahoo.com)

Published by:

IIUM Press, International Islamic University Malaysia  
P.O. Box 10, 50728 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
Phone (+603) 6196-5014, Fax: (+603) 6196-6298  
Website: <http://iiumpress.iium.edu.my/bookshop>

**Intellectual Discourse**  
**Vol. 31, No. 1, 2023**

**Contents**

<i>Note from the Editor</i>	1
 <b>Research Articles</b>	
Validation of a <i>Sejahtera</i> Living Index Using the Rasch Model <i>Muhammad Faris Abdullah</i> <i>Mohamad Sahari bin Nordin</i> <i>Suhailah binti Hussien</i> <i>Norhayati Mohd. Alwi</i> <i>Noor Suzilawati binti Rabe</i>	7
Investigating Ismā‘īl Rājī al-Fārūqī’s Methodology in the Study of Christianity through Selected Textual Analysis from His <i>Christian Ethics</i> <i>Fatmir Shehu</i>	31
Paradoxical and Insufficient? Gender Quotas and Placement Mandates in Bosnia and Herzegovina’s 2020 Local Elections <i>Mirsad Karić</i> <i>Šejma Aydin</i> <i>Huseyin Korkut</i> <i>Muhidin Mulalić</i>	57
Gestalt and Semiotic Analyses of Brand Communication on Disability Inclusion: The Case of Malaysia and the US <i>Aida Mokhtar</i> <i>Faiswal Kasirye</i>	83
Understanding the Decline of Pakistan-US Alliance and the Growing Influence of China in Pakistan <i>Roy Anthony Rogers</i> <i>Noraiz Arshad</i> <i>Iftikhar Ali</i>	113

Let's Think They are Safe Online! A Malaysian Perspective on The Classification of Children's Cyber Risks <i>Sarina Yusuf</i> <i>Misha Teimouri</i> <i>Muhamad Shamsul Ibrahim</i> <i>Nan Zakiah Megat Ibrahim</i> <i>Syahida Mohd Nazri</i> <i>Stephanie Ann Victor</i>	139
Social Media Use for English Learning in Southeast Asia: A Systematic Review <i>Farah Fazlinda Mohamad</i> <i>Khazaila bt Zaini</i> <i>Nur Syahidatul Idany</i>	161
<i>Maqāṣid al-Sharī'ah</i> as Goal Framing for Sustainable Behaviours: A Conceptual Framework <i>Ali Mehellou</i> <i>Mohamad Saifudin Mohamad Saleh</i> <i>Bahiyah Omar</i>	183
Faith in The Time of Coronavirus: A Corpus-assisted Discourse Analysis <i>Siti Aeisha Joharry</i>	211
COVID-19: Analysing the Principle and Application of <i>I'tibār Ma'ālāt</i> in the Selected <i>Fatwas</i> Issued by the Malaysian National Council for Islamic Religious Affairs (MKI) <i>Abdul Manan Ismail</i> <i>Ahmad Syukran Baharuddin</i> <i>Muhammad Hazim Ahmad</i>	233
The Challenges of Civil Society Organisations: NGO-isation of Resistance in Malaysia? <i>Sharifah Nursyahidah Syed Annuar</i> <i>Muhamad Takiyudin Ismail</i>	257

The Authenticity of Theology in Scientific and  
Technological Thinking  
*Anhar Anshory*  
*Ahmad Faizuddin Ramli*  
*Ramli Awang* 283

**Research Notes**

The Seminar on *Da'wah* in Kuala Lumpur in 1977 and  
the Emergence of *Hijab* Awareness in Indonesia  
*Alwi Alatas*  
*Agus Setiawan*  
*Achmad Sunjayadi*  
*Yunadi Ramlan* 303

**Book Review**

Osman Bakar, *Environmental Wisdom for Planet Earth:  
The Islamic Heritage* [Revised New Edition] (Kuala Lumpur:  
Islamic Book Trust, 2022). 114 pp. ISBN 978-967-2795-00-1.  
Reviewer: *Senad Mrahorović* 315



## Transliteration Table: Consonants

Arabic	Roman		Arabic	Roman
ب	b		ط	ṭ
ت	t		ظ	ẓ
ث	th		ع	‘
ج	j		غ	gh
ح	ḥ		ف	f
خ	kh		ق	q
د	d		ك	k
ذ	dh		ل	l
ر	r		م	m
ز	z		ن	n
س	s		ه	h
ش	sh		و	w
ص	ṣ		ء	’
ض	ḍ		ي	y

## Transliteration Table: Vowels and Diphthongs

Arabic	Roman		Arabic	Roman
اَ	a		اَ، اِيَّ	an
اُ	u		اُو	un
اِ	i		اِي	in
اَ، اِ، اِيَّ	ā		اُو	aw
اُو	ū		اِيَّ	ay
اِي	ī		اُو	uww, ū (in final position)
			اِيَّ	iyy, ī (in final position)

*Source: ROTAS Transliteration Kit: <http://rotas.iium.edu.my>*





## Note from the Editor

In this issue, *Intellectual Discourse* (Vol. 31, No. 1) presents 12 articles, a research note, and a book review. The articles range from validation of a *Sejahtera* living index using the Rasch model to social media use for English learning in Southeast Asia, and from understanding the decline of Pakistan-US alliance to the challenges of civil society organisations in Malaysia. For this edition, nine of the 12 articles are collaborative efforts among authors; some from the same institution, while some others from different ones. Scholars from various academic institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia Pakistan, and Turkiye contributed their articles that resulted from their research works. The topics and contents of the articles reflect the diverse disciplines in Islamic revealed knowledge and the human sciences.

The first article (Validation of a *Sejahtera* Living Index Using the Rasch Model)—written by Muhammad Faris Abdullah, Mohamad Sahari bin Nordin, Suhailah binti Hussien, Norhayati Mohd. Alwi and Noor Suzilawati binti Rabe—develops a scale to measure *sejahtera* living. *Sejahtera* is a concept in the Malay language that encompasses happiness, social-emotional wellbeing, life satisfaction, quality of life, meaning in life, and spiritual intelligence. This article examines the validity of the scale, and estimates the index scores of *sejahtera* living among students and employees of International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM). It reports the findings of this validation exercise, based on data from 1,057 respondents. Using Rasch measurement analysis, the authors find evidence for the validity of the *sejahtera* living construct in terms of the good fit of the items, reliability and separation indexes, response category functioning, dimensionality, and construct validity. The findings also support the need for instructional interventions and training to sustain and improve the quality of *sejahtera* living among Muslims.

In the second article, (Investigating Ismāʿīl Rājī al-Fārūqī's Methodology in the Study of Christianity through Selected Textual

Analysis from His Christian Ethics), Fatmir Shehu investigates the methodology pioneered by Ismā‘īl Rājī al-Fārūqī in the field of comparative religion, based on the latter’s “Christian Ethics: A Historical and Systematic Analysis of its Dominant Ideas.” Using historical, descriptive, and interpretative analytical methods, the article analyses al-Fārūqī’s new approach toward understanding Christianity. This article discusses al-Fārūqī’s short biography, al-his work on Christianity, and the interpretive analysis of al-Fārūqī’s methodology in the light of selected texts from his work on “Christian Ethics.” Shehu finds that Al-Fārūqī’s objective-analytical-comparative methodology is relevant to the contemporary scholarship of comparative religion.

Mirsad Karić, Šejma Aydin, Huseyn Korkut and Muhidin Mulalić collaborate in a study for the third article (Paradoxical and Insufficient? Gender Quota and Placemnet Mandates in Bosnia and Herzegovina’s 2020 Local Elections). This article examines the impact of preferential voting on the representation of women in the local councils following the last Local Elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina. They analyse the effect of gender quotas and placement mandates across several determinants: electoral unit magnitude, local community urbanisation rate, ethnic composition of municipalities, and ideological foundation of political parties. The 2020 Local Elections resulted in 19.86% women candidates elected to the local councils, still short of the universal 30% target. Their study also reports that female candidates in the urban centres have higher chances of being elected; among ethnic-majority seats, Serb-majority areas elected more female candidates; and female candidates from centrist parties have higher chances of being elected than other political orientations.

The fourth article (Gestalt and Semiotic Analyses of Brand Communications on Disability Inclusion: The Case of Malaysia and the US), written by Aida Mokhtar and Faiswal Kasirye, discusses the role product brands play in promoting disability inclusion through their brand messages. Their multiple case study compares brand communication from ten product brands each originating from Malaysia and the United States using Ferdinand de Saussure’s model of semiotics. They find that *Common Fate* is the fundamental gestalt principle in most brands’ communication on disability inclusion of both countries and that positive nomenclature was used as the signifier that underlined the organisations’ positive perception of disability inclusion.

In the fifth article (Understanding the Decline of Pakistan-US Alliance and the Growing Influence of China in Pakistan), Roy Anthony Rogers, Noraiz Ahmad and Iftikhar Ali explain Pakistan's hedging strategy in its foreign policy amid the uncertain future of China-US relations in South Asia. This article argues that Pakistan's fear of becoming excessively dependent on the US and of getting enmeshed in China's growing influence in Pakistan necessitates the formulation of foreign policy that avoids being overdependent on any of the two, but still presents Pakistan as an important ally to both. Pakistan's conduct of foreign policy towards the US and China, the authors contend, is one that positions itself as a crucial strategic partner of the US in the fight against terrorism, and as a strategic economic ally of rising China.

The sixth article (Let's Think They are Safe Online: A Malaysian Perspective on the Classification of Children's Cyber Risks) by Sarina Yusof, Misha Teimouri, Muhamad Shamsul Ibrahim, Syahida Mohd Nazri and Stephanie Ann Victor investigate digital threats and inappropriate contents encountered by children when surfing the Internet. This article analyses the risk factors associated with children's Internet use, from a data of 420 school-going children aged nine to 16 years old around Selangor, Malaysia. It finds that children were highly exposed to, among others, unwanted exposure to pornography, potentially dangerous user-generated content, sexting, personal data misuse, cyber grooming, and cyberbullying in the past 12 months of using the Internet.

Farah Fazlinda Mohamad, in the seventh article (Social Media Use for English Language Learning in Southeast Asia: A Systematic review), assesses the use social media for English learning in the Southeast Asian context through a systematic review. This study searched the SCOPUS database to find peer-reviewed journal articles on social media use for English learning in Southeast Asia, and identified 46 such articles, of which 21 met the inclusion criteria. This article suggests that the use of social media for English learning is associated with improving communication skills, enhancing collaborative learning, encouraging self-directed learning, enhancing writing skill and learning experience.

In the eighth article (*Maqāṣid al-Sharī'ah* as Goal Framing for Sustainable Behaviours: A Conceptual Framework), Ali Mehellou, Mohamad Saifudin Mohamad Saleh and Bahiyah Omar introduce a

new conceptual framework based on five pivotal values of *Maqāṣid al-Sharī'ah*—preserving religion, life, intellect, progeny, and wealth—which served as predictors in the framing of sustainable behaviours. This article discusses an overview of goal-action research, followed by identification of research gaps, and an extensive review of the *Maqāṣid al-Sharī'ah's* five goals. The authors propose a *Maqāṣid al-Sharī'ah*-based framework for sustainable behaviours that offers new avenues to establish greater understanding of the universal values of Islam.

Siti Aeisha Joharry compares between language used in online writings on the Coronavirus from an Islamic institution and those written for a more general audience in the ninth article of this edition (Faith in the Time of Coronavirus: A Corpus-assisted Discourse Analysis). Analysing keywords from a collection of articles on Covid-19 using the corpus linguistic approach through the Sketch Engine, this study finds salient words that are more faith-based, such as God, acts of devotion and martyrdom. This article also finds that there are more words referring to God, the Prophet, faith, and religion in online writings from the Islamic institution. The online writings analysed also prominently feature issues relating to *Tawakkul*, or reliance on Allah, weighing whether the virus is a punishment or a mercy, as well as how to deal with grief.

In the tenth article (COVID-19: Analysing the Principle and Application of *I'tibār Ma'ālāt* in the Selected Fatwas Issued by the Malaysian National Council for Islamic Religious Affairs (MKI)), Abdul Manan Ismail, Ahmad Syukran Baharuddin and Muhammad Hazim Ahmad explore the application of al-Shāṭibī's *i'tibār ma'ālāt* in selected fatwas issued by the Malaysian National Council for Islamic Religious Affairs (MKI). *I'tibār ma'ālāt* refers to the need to consider the benefit/s of the outcome of a particular ruling for the society. This study finds that in addition to the application of *maqāṣid al-sharī'ah*, the fatwas had also—explicitly and implicitly—applied the principle *i'tibār ma'ālāt*. This signifies the universal relevance of *i'tibār ma'ālāt* in solving emerging religious concerns, as experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The eleventh article (The Challenges of Civil Society Organisations: NGO-isation of Resistance in Malaysia?), written by Sharifah Nursyahidah Syed Annuar and Muhamad Takiyudin Ismail, discusses the positive contribution of Malaysian civil society organisations in

policymaking and democratisation. It investigates challenges to civil society organisations, which include the politics of democratic aid to NGOs, sexual harassment, and job exploitation in several NGOs. The authors explore the concept of “uncivil society” in Malaysia and its relevance to the NGO-isation of resistance. Based on interviews with informants from four NGOs, this study identifies three main concerns regarding “uncivil society” and NGO-isation of resistance, namely: undemocratic work culture, the NGO establishment motive, and ineffective resistance.

In the twelfth article (The Authenticity of Theology in Scientific and Technological Thinking), Anhar Anshory, Ahmad Faizuddin Ramli and Ramli Awang discuss the flaws in Western scientific and technological thinking, which they argue are caused by the separation of theology from science and technology. This article claims that the deprivation of knowledge from the bond of true belief will ruin human life and nature, and provides examples from weapons and food technologies to support such claim. The authors acknowledge efforts among Western scientists who have awareness to take steps to restore the agenda of science and technology within the framework of religious beliefs. Furthermore, drawing from the works of leading scholars who pioneered Islamisation of knowledge, this study elucidates the nature and appearance of Science and Technology that are firmly embroidered with natural theology leading to universal well-being.

This edition also features research notes (The Seminar on *Da'wah* in Kuala Lumpur in 1977 and the Emergence of *Hijab* Awareness in Indonesia) written by Alwi Alatas, Agus Setiawan, Achmad Sunjayadi and Yunadi Ramlan. They discuss the impact of a seminar on *da'wah* in Kuala Lumpur in 1977, which was attended by some Indonesian Muslim activists, on the emergence of a new awareness of *hijab* wear in Indonesia. While acknowledging multiple other factors that contributed to *hijab* awareness, the authors find that such awareness was initiated by the attendees of the 1977 *da'wah* seminar who organised various programmes to encourage Indonesian Muslim women to wear *hijab* despite obstacles imposed by the New Order government.

Overall, the articles in this edition reflect the multidisciplinary nature of *Intellectual Discourse*, covering—among others—the disciplines of education, comparative religion, international relations, *fiqh*, history

and communication. They are in line with the main objective of the journal to be a forum for scholarly dialogue and communication on issues related to Islam and the Muslim World. On a personal note, and on behalf of Danial Mohd. Yusof, the Editor-in-Chief, I would like to express our utmost appreciation to everyone who is involved in this publication. The publication of this edition would not be possible without the contribution of the authors, the anonymous reviewers, and the editorial team.

**Tunku Mohar Mokhtar**  
Editor



# In This Issue

## *Note from the Editor*

### *Research Articles*

**Muhammad Faris Abdullah, Mohamad Sahari bin Nordin, Suhailah binti Hussien, Norhayati Mohd. Alwi & Noor Suzilawati binti Rabe**

Validation of a *Sejahtera* Living Index Using the Rasch Model

### **Fatmir Shehu**

Investigating Ismā'īl Rājī al-Fārūqī's Methodology in the Study of Christianity through Selected Textual Analysis from His *Christian Ethics*

### **Mirsad Karić, Šejma Aydin, Huseyin Korkut & Muhidin Mulalić**

Paradoxical and Insufficient? Gender Quotas and Placement Mandates in Bosnia and Herzegovina's 2020 Local Elections

### **Aida Mokhtar & Faiswal Kasirye**

Gestalt and Semiotic Analyses of Brand Communication on Disability Inclusion: The Case of Malaysia and the US

### **Roy Anthony Rogers, Noraiz Arshad & Iftikhar Ali**

Understanding the Decline of Pakistan-US Alliance and the Growing Influence of China in Pakistan

### **Sarina Yusuf, Misha Teimouri, Muhamad Shamsul Ibrahim, Nan Zakiah**

### **Megat Ibrahim, Syahida Mohd Nazri & Stephanie Ann Victor**

Let's Think They are Safe Online! A Malaysian Perspective on The Classification of Children's Cyber Risks

### **Farah Fazlinda Mohamad, Khazaila bt Zaini & Nur Syahidatul Idany**

Social Media Use for English Learning in Southeast Asia: A Systematic Review

### **Ali Mehellou, Mohamad Saifudin Mohamad Saleh & Bahiyah Omar**

*Maqāṣid al-Sharī'ah* as Goal Framing for Sustainable Behaviours: A Conceptual Framework

### **Siti Aeisha Joharry**

Faith in The Time of Coronavirus: A Corpus-assisted Discourse Analysis

### **Abdul Manan Ismail, Ahmad Syukran Baharuddin & Muhammad Hazim Ahmad**

COVID-19: Analysing the Principle and Application of *I'tibār Ma'ālāt* in the Selected *Fatwas* Issued by the Malaysian National Council for Islamic Religious Affairs (MKI)

### **Sharifah Nursyahidah Syed Annuar & Muhamad Takiyudin Ismail**

The Challenges of Civil Society Organisations: NGO-isation of Resistance in Malaysia?

### **Anhar Anshory, Ahmad Faizuddin Ramli & Ramli Awang**

The Authenticity of Theology in Scientific and Technological Thinking

### *Research Notes*

### **Alwi Alatas, Agus Setiawan, Achmad Sunjayadi & Yunadi Ramlan**

The Seminar on *Da'wah* in Kuala Lumpur in 1977 and the Emergence of *Hijab* Awareness in Indonesia

### *Book Review*

ISSN 0128-4878 (Print)

ISSN 2289-5639 (Online)

