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Editorial

This December 2025 issue of the IIUM Journal of Religion and Civilisational Studies (IJRCS) comprises several topics related to Islamic history and civilisation, namely Islamic art and architecture, the role of women in Islam in the realm of religious knowledge, and political history.

The first article, titled **“A Response to Feminist Theology on Women’s Access to Knowledge in Islam: A Qur’anic Reappraisal of the Amanah”** by Waresa Azizi and Fatimah binti Karim tackles an interesting issue on women and the production and transmission of religious knowledge against the backdrop of some claims that have been influenced by feminist ideology, on how the role of women has been downplayed vis-à-vis that of men. Using the Qur’anic concept of *amānah* (trust), the authors conclude that, instead of opting for gender-based narratives, the Qur’an should be interpreted in its true spirit, which, if followed through, shows that the Qur’an assigns equal roles to both men and women in seeking and disseminating Islamic knowledge, thereby highlighting the concept of fairness in Islam.

The next article, **“The Karađoz Beg Mosque: A Gem of Islamic Architecture in Mostar Attributed to Mimar Sinan”** by Spahic Omer, dwells on one significant Ottoman legacy at Mostar in the present-day Bosnia and Herzegovina in the form of an architectural monument, a mosque. Not only was the Karađoz Beg Mosque built by one of the most renowned Muslim architects, Mimar Sinan, but it is also the most iconic mosque in Mostar, which inspired the establishment of other similar structures in the city. Shedding light on the mosque's special features, the article establishes its uniqueness, which is in line with the Islamic worldview. Not only does the mosque perform various communal functions, but it also exudes the significance of worshipping the Creator and preparing oneself for the afterlife. It is due to its physical and spiritual features and functions that the mosque needs to be appreciated and preserved.

Choosing political history as their topic of discussion, Metin Zengin and Mefail Hizli examine the effects of British and French presence and influence on the relations between Siam and the Malay Sultanate of Patani in the 19th and early 20th centuries. In their work, **“Patani Sultanate: Struggle for Independence in the Triangle of Siam, Britain and France”**, the author highlights the Siamese efforts for state-building and preservation of independence amidst the Western imperialist threats, which ended with the signing of the Anglo-French Treaty of 1896 and the Anglo-Siamese Accord of 1897. For readers of history, not only does the article explain the events leading to the fall of the Patani Sultanate, but also how they shaped the Malay-Muslims’ political identity in Patani, the impacts of which linger until today.

On behalf of the Editorial Board, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to all contributors and reviewers who were involved in this June issue. It is hoped that the valuable ideas and engaging works of the contributors or authors will enrich the existing knowledge and benefit readers and students of history and civilisation worldwide.

Finally, I wish to express my gratitude to all members of the Editorial Board, our Editor, Dr. Mohd Helmi Mohd Sobri, and Associate Editors, namely Assoc. Prof. Dr. Alwi Alatas, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rabi'ah Aminudin and Dr. Mohamad Firdaus Mansor Majdin, without whose efforts and dedication, the publication of this issue would not have become a reality. Thank you.

Fauziah Fathil
Editor-in-Chief
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