

CALL FOR PAPERS

THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF ISLAMIC SOCIAL SCIENCES (AJISS)

SPECIAL ISSUE

Applying *Wasatiyyah* (Moderation) in Contemporary Muslim Societies

GUEST EDITORS

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Religious tolerance and mutual respect among members of different religious communities is vital in today's global context. Citizens must learn to develop empathy by recognizing and understanding the religious and cultural "other" living among them. This tolerance, an imperative in today's multifaith and multicultural societies, also calls for intrafaith tolerance and respect within Muslim communities. Can the Qur'anic concept of *ummatan wasata* become the source of overall *wasatiyyah* (moderation and equilibrium) promoted by Islam from its very early days? The classical notion of *wasatiyyah* can serve as a critical religious instrument to both further and maintain social cohesion founded upon the twin principles of justice and peaceful coexistence. From Islam's early days, this notion has been of paramount importance to many Muslim thinkers. Contemporary social scientists, intellectuals, policymakers, and religious leaders who are aware of minority religious groups' increasing calls for greater political autonomy and participation in shaping their own destiny are once again demanding lasting solutions to discrimination and mutual dehumanization of the "other" in our midst.

This special issue invites scholars to reflect upon and respond to the notion of mutual respect and acceptance in order to provide a "stepping stone" for further study and research on applying *wasatiyyah* and to reflect upon the ongoing accomplishments and challenges, particularly in Muslim societies.

THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF ISLAMIC SOCIAL SCIENCES INVITES

- Social sciences and humanities-based research papers reflecting on all aspects of applying *wasatiyyah* in contemporary Muslim societies.
- Book reviews related to the theme.
- Shorter reflection pieces of 2,000-3,000 words.

SUGGESTED TOPICS

- Theoretical papers examining the successes/failures of applying *wasatiyyah* in contemporary societies.
- Historical studies of underlying structural forces in contemporary applications of *wasatiyyah*.

- Case studies, qualitative interviews, and oral histories of key people or organizations on the application of *wasatiyyah* in the Muslim world.
- The impact of political institutions, media, religious authorities, women's groups, and youth on promoting moderation.
- Critical studies of the work of scholars who seek to apply *wasatiyyah* in their societies.
- The authority of modern ulama in promoting/resisting religious moderation.
- In-depth explorations of the Muslim world's prevalent political systems, their power structures, and their ability to promote/oppose religious moderation.
- Muslim responses to specific issues: democracy, pluralism and tolerance; freedom of religion and conscience, women's rights and equality of all citizens; legal and economic reforms in the context of the modern nation-state.
- Experience of Muslims living as minorities in majority non-Muslim or majority sectarian situations and their take on *wasatiyyah*.
- The role of Muslim educational institutions, intellectuals, secular nationalism or modernization in reinforcing *wasatiyyah* in contemporary societies.

Regular research papers should be **7,000-10,000** words. All submissions must conform to AJISS guidelines: be original, unpublished research; double-spaced and single-sided; **and conform to the Chicago Style**.

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE

- Send a brief note of intent to contribute **immediately**.
- Send the completed paper by January 15, 2015 as an attachment in MS-Word, with a 250-word abstract and a short bio, simultaneously to

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Submission Deadline: January 15, 2015

Decision Date: March 16, 2015

Publication Date: July 2015

The American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences (AJISS) is a double blind peer-reviewed and interdisciplinary journal published by the International Institute of Islamic Thought. AJISS publishes a wide variety of peer-reviewed scholarly research on all facets of Islam and the Muslim world: politics, history, economic philosophy, metaphysics, psychology, religious law, and Islamic thought, employing both empirical and theoretical analysis. AJISS aims to provide a forum for high-quality original research and critical dialogue and discussion, advancing both application of social sciences to the study of Islam and the Muslim world and an analysis of the social sciences. In addition, AJISS includes insightful reviews of published books of interest to our subscribers, as well as forum articles and conference reports.