

المجادلة
AL-MUJADILAH

جدال
JADAL
حوار في بحوث المرأة
Women's Research Dialogue

Jadal | Call For Papers

MUSLIM WOMEN NAVIGATING THEOLOGY, ETHICS, AND SOCIETY

January 2026

Jadal | Call For Papers

January 2026

Muslim Women Navigating Theology, Ethics, and Society

Jadal Women's Research Dialogue (Jadal) explores how Muslim women have shaped society, and contributed to, theology and ethics, from the inception of Islam to the present day, focusing on contemporary application for such studies. We welcome scholars and practitioners to explore the various dimensions of women's involvement, whether as theologians, scholars, ethicists, or social agents. We also welcome scholars and practitioners to engage with how Muslim women's contributions have shaped and were shaped by theological, ethical, and social factors and their continuous efforts in diverse historical and contemporary contexts to bring their traditions into practice. Finally, we also welcome papers that explore how modern transformations like colonization, modernization, and secularization have impacted these domains and the ability to bring them to fruitful practice in our daily lives.

Annual Strategic Theme

Our strategic theme for 2025 is "Muslim Women Navigating Theology, Ethics, and Society." This theme centers the role of Muslims in shaping theology, ethics, and society from the inception of Islam to the present day. We will explore the way theology and ethics have historically shaped Muslim communities and how they continue to evolve in response to contemporary challenges.

We seek to examine how Islamic texts and traditions engage with theology¹, ethics², and community-building, and how historical shifts—including the expansion of the Muslim ummah, and financial patronage—as well as recent shifts—including colonization³, modernization, and secularization—have affected these domains. All in aim to support Muslim women today navigate and contribute to their living traditions in a transformative manner across various social, political, and religious contexts.

1 By theology we refer to the credal, metaphysical and epistemological principles serving as the foundations of all other Islamic disciplines and guiding scholarly discussions. As such, it encompasses theological thinking found in 'aqida, kalam and hikma classical manuals as well tafsir, fiqh and usul al-fiqh manuals

2 By ethics we refer to moral and spiritual principles guiding individuals' character, communities, and legal rules (as in akhlaq, tazkiyya, and maqasid).

3 By colonialism we refer to the practice of one nation exerting political, legal, and economic control over another territory or people, often through domination and the extension of power by a foreign polity.

Areas of interest for the Jadal 2026 includes the following themes:

- **Normative Foundations:**

Engaging with the Qur'an, hadith, and Islamic intellectual tradition to explore how foundational texts and schools of thought frame issues of theology, ethics, and society today. We encourage works that engage with contemporary relevance, considering the different contexts and exploring how these developments impact our daily lives.

a. Possible Questions & Themes:

- i. How have Islamic texts and traditions conceptualized women's roles in theology, ethics, and society?
- ii. What are the main theological debates that shaped our concepts of knowledge, society, and tradition?
- iii. What ethical obligations does the Qur'an and hadith place on community building and what are the qualities of these communities?
- iv. How did the Islamic intellectual tradition conceptualize the ummah? How does this concept inform understandings of community, responsibility, and justice in today's world?
- v. How do concepts like *urf* (customary practice), *ma la a* (public good), and *maqā'id al-sharī'a* (objectives of Islamic law) shape legal and ethical thinking in different contexts?
- vi. How can Islamic ethical frameworks address contemporary questions on family law, governance, and communal responsibility?
- vii. What role does theology play in shaping legal and ethical discussions relevant to Muslim women today?

- **Historical Perspectives**

Examining how theology, ethics, and society structures have changed over time, considering the expansion of the Muslim ummah, and financial patronage, as well as, colonization, modernization, secularization and legal transformation in both Muslim-majority and minority contexts.

Muslim Women Navigating Theology, Ethics, and Society

- a. Possible Questions & Themes:

- i. What are the major shifts that occurred in classical theological schools? And what were the philosophical and societal contexts behind them?
- ii. How have pre-modern Muslim societies structured legal and ethical norms around women, family, and public life?
- iii. What impact did colonization, modernization, and secularization have on Islamic legal, epistemological and ethical frameworks?
- iv. How did pre-modern Muslim societies conceptualize family, community, and belonging, and how did these ideas evolve over time?
- v. How have Muslim minority communities historically navigated legal and ethical challenges in non-Muslim societies?
- vi. How can we understand the impact of the diverse ethnicities of the major contributors to the Islamic intellectual traditions? And what can we learn from this history to fulfill the needs of our global umma.
- vii. How did theologians navigate the political and financial challenges of their time? And what impact did they have on the faith and practice of their communities?

- Contemporary Challenges & Solutions:

Addressing pressing legal, theological, ethical, and social issues affecting Muslim women today, while exploring solutions for strengthening theology, ethics, and community-building in the modern world.

- i. What are the theological challenges that young people/women face in our time and what can be offered from within our traditional theology?
- ii. How can theological, epistemological and ethical questions guide our educational models and school-communities?
- iii. What challenges do Muslim communities face in maintaining ethical and theological traditions in secular contexts?
- iv. How can we bring back theological thought and reflection into our every day work and life?
- v. How do contemporary Muslim movements and intellectual perspectives engage with classical Islamic thought in the areas of theology, ethics and community?
- vi. What are the implications of Islamic ethics on contemporary debates on human rights, migration, climate change and leadership?
- vii. How do contexts of war and conflict impact Muslim women's participation in law, theology, ethics, and community-building?
- viii. What are new and emerging models for Muslim communities to structure legal, ethical, and social frameworks?
- ix. What are the new theological approaches that can serve continuing the type of traditional theological thinking that helped our umma flourish?

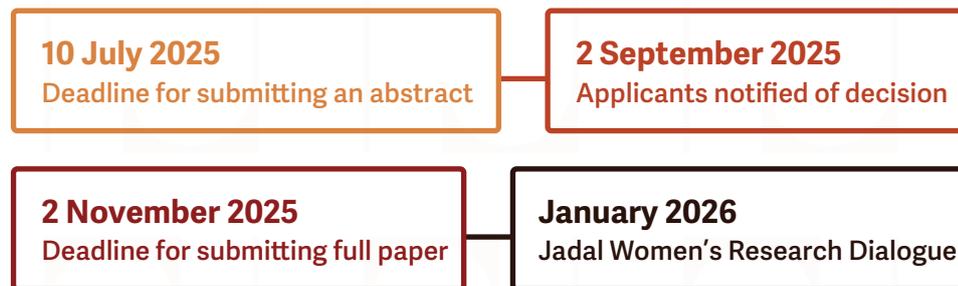
Ethical Conduct

Ethical conduct is of utmost importance and any form of plagiarism will result in the rejection of the paper. The violation of copyright (i.e., unauthorized republication of scholarly material) will be rejected without further review, and additional action will be taken as appropriate. To verify compliance, submissions may be checked by originality or duplicate checking software.

For more, see [Terms and Conditions on the website](#).

Important Dates

Application must be completed on the [website](#):



Contact Us

Applications must be completed on our [website](#)

For any inquiries about this call-for-papers, please contact jadal@qf.org.qa



+974 4454 6685



jadal@qf.org.qa



almujadilah.qa



[@almujadilah.qa](https://www.instagram.com/almujadilah.qa)



[@almujadilah_qa](https://twitter.com/almujadilah_qa)



[@almujadilah.qa](https://www.facebook.com/almujadilah.qa)