Islam and International Relations
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Contributions to Theory and Practice

Edited by

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Preface

Co-IRIS (International Relations and Islamic Studies Research Cohort) is an organization interested in the advancement of comparative research between International Relations (IR) and Islamic Studies (IS). It was created by a group of researchers interested in developing and sustaining a body of knowledge that addresses the theories and practices of Muslim civilization and societies with regard to international affairs and the discipline of international relations. IR as a field is not a unilateral project but an intellectual platform. The aim of Co-IRIS is to explore Islamic contributions to the field. The inclusion of Muslim contributions is not meant to create an isolationist, controversial divide between what is Islamic and what is not. Co-IRIS was created to act on the inclusion of that knowledge as a building block in the IR field. It is premised on the idea that knowledge is fluid: people adopt and utilize thoughts and ideas regardless of faith, gender, nation, and so on. The mainstream idea that all knowledge presented by the West is from an Orientalist perspective, or that there is a clash of civilizations, are both notions antithetical to our mission.

Co-IRIS was previously known as IR-IS Research Cohort when it was created by Nassef Manabilang Adiong on December 29, 2012 through various social networking sites such as Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter and Google+. His blog/website and Twitter feed served as temporary e-places where he formulated his thoughts and disseminated information. It was his aspiration to introduce Islamic contributions to the field of IR because he observed a tremendous non-recognition among IR scholars of theories and practices of international relations from Islamic scholars, particularly in the West. His dream is to find shared values and a mutual understanding between IR and IS. Up until he found avenues and academic tools for a starting point to materialize his aspirations, he was able to edit a book, create a section conference, and organize meetings with people with similar passions and interests. Firstly, through exchanges of correspondence with Dr. Raffaele Mauriello and Dr. Deina Abdelkader and then, at a meeting in Rapallo (Italy) from 30 October to 02 November 2013 held as part of the annual Exploratory Symposia organized by the European International Studies Association, Co-IRIS was born.

Your Co-IRIS team,
Deina Abdelkader
Nassef Manabilang Adiong
Raffaele Mauriello
Notes on Contributors

Deina Abdelkader is an associate professor in the Political Science Department and a visiting scholar on the Alwaleed Islamic Studies Program, Harvard University, USA. She is the author of Social Justice in Islam (2000) and Islamic Activists: The Anti-Enlightenment Democrats (2011). She has also authored a number of articles, including “Coercion, Peace and the Issue of Jihad” in the Digest of Middle East Studies, and a book chapter, “Modernity, Islam and Religious Activism”, in The New Global Order and the Middle East. Abdelkader was 2015 Chair of the Religion and International Relations Book Award of the International Studies Association. She is one of two women on the North American Muslim Jurisprudential Council. Her focus is on democratic transitions in the Muslim World and Islamic Political Activism.


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Raffaele Mauriello is a postdoctoral research fellow at the Faculty of World Studies, University of Tehran, Iran. He is an historian specializing in contemporary Shi’a Islam, international relations and geopolitics. He holds a first-class honours degree in Oriental Languages and Civilizations
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**Carimo Mohomed** is an independent researcher based in Portugal with a PhD in Political Theory and Analysis. His research interests are the history of political ideas in the Islamic world, particularly in South Asia, and relations between religion and politics in different cultural and civilizational contexts. Mohomed is an executive member of the International Political Science Association Research Committee for Religion and Politics, a member of the British Society for Middle Eastern Studies’ Faith, Politics, and Society Research Network, and member of the editorial board of the *International Journal of Islamic Thought*, published by the International Society of Muslim Philosophers and Theologians and the Department of Theology and Philosophy, National University of Malaysia.

**Rodolfo Ragionieri** is Professor of International Relations and International History at the University of Sassari, Sardinia, Italy. Before his appointment, he lectured in Mathematical Physics and Mathematics for the Social Sciences at the University of Florence, Italy. He is the author of *Pace e guerre nelle relazioni internazionali* (Carocci, Rome 2008), and co-editor of *Democrazie e fondamentalismi* (with D. Belliti, ETS, Pisa 2006), *Identities and Conflicts: The Mediterranean* (with F. Cerutti, Palgrave Macmillan, 2001), *Culture e conflitti nell’area mediterranea* (with O. Schmidt di Friedberg, Asterios, Trieste 2003). His current research interests focus on the relations between monotheistic religions, violence, and peace.

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