



Session 7: Islamic Bioethics of Brain Death & End-of-Life  
Healthcare Ethics  
Opening Lecture

 @initiative4IM

**PART  
1**

Discourse  
&  
Concepts



**PART  
2**

Theories  
&  
Frameworks



**PART  
3**

Applied  
Islamic  
Bioethics



## Modules

- Session 1:
  - Introduction
- Session 2:
  - Research Methods, Outputs & Producer Roles in Islamic Bioethics
- Session 3:
  - An Introduction to Islamic Moral Epistemology
- Session 4:
  - Islamic Law & Bioethics
- Session 5:
  - Character Development and Islamic Bioethics
- Session 6:
  - Contestations over Stakeholder Roles in Islamic Bioethical Discourse
- Session 7:
  - Islamic Bioethics of Brain Death & End-of-Life Healthcare Ethics
- Session 8:
  - Islamic Bioethics of Organ Donation and Transplantation
- Session 9:
  - Islamic Bioethics Ethics of Abortion & Human Reproduction
- Session 10:
  - Islamic Bioethics: A Review

Sessions



## Where are we?

- **Medical Practice**
  - Work in environments that are at times hostile to religion and religious values
  - Are informed by a mechanistic view of the human being and positivistic view of the science
  - Do not have a community of practice within which Islamic virtues are exemplified or Islamic ethico-legal understandings are taught/learned and deliberated over
- **Muslim Communities**
  - Marginalized as a religious community in biomedicine (ethnic/racial identity is privileged)
  - Do not know what we do not know
  - Tactical thinking >> strategic planning
- **Islamic jurists**
  - Disconnected from centers of biomedical advancements, healthcare systems, and bioethics academy
- **Discourse**
  - Partially address the ethical problem-space → incomplete answers to our practical questions
  - Yet heuristics exists that help us separate fact from value in the biomedical realm





**Problem Space**  
Exploring and understanding the problem or opportunity from different perspectives

**Solution Space**  
Creating ideas to solve the problem or embrace the opportunity

## Where do we go?

- **Course Logic**
  - We have explored the bioethical problem space from various disciplinary vantage-points
  - Ventured in a critical, yet constructive, analysis
  - You have become literate in the discourse to become informed consumers




Gaining Knowledge vs Consuming Knowledge

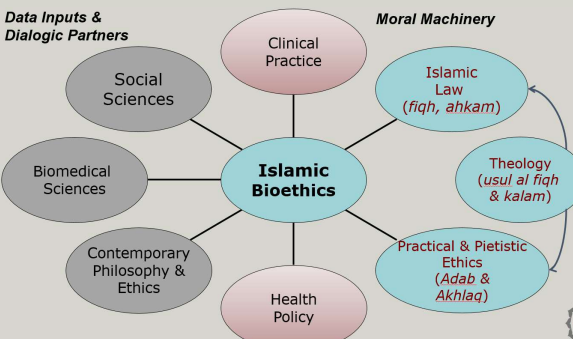



## Topics

- **Dying & Possible death**
  - Brain death
  - Withdrawal and withholding
  - Deceased organ donation
- **Producing Life & Possible death**
  - Abortion
  - Assisted Reproduction
- ➔ **Constructing an Islamic Bioethics**
  - Note which disciplinary perspective is being presented, its limits, and gaps
  - Consider how to align perspectives to inform your practice



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## Focus Questions

- What is death?
- How do jurists and physicians relate the notion of the soul to the concept of death?
- What are the main juridical stances on withdrawing and withholding life support?

## Self-Reflection Questions

- What ethical and practical consideration in declaring death?
- How do Muslim jurists and physicians define death?

Focus questions relate to discrete knowledge found in the readings and lectures  
Self-reflection questions are about the field and how it may relate to your practice



## The Materials: Constructing Islamic Bioethical Deliberation

- Krawietz, B. *Brain Death and Islamic Traditions, Shifting Borders of Life in Islamic Theology and Law*. Islamic Ethics of Life: Abortion, War and Euthanasia. University of South Carolina Press. 2003
- Padela AI, Arozullah, A., and Moosa, E. (2013). *Brain Death in Islamic Ethico-legal Deliberation: Challenges for Applied Islamic Bioethics*. *Bioethics*, 27(3), 132-139 [with Erratum](#)
- Padela, A.I., 2022. *Muslim Disquiet over Brain Death: Advancing Islamic Bioethics Discourses by Treating Death as a Social Construct that Aligns Purposes with Criteria and Ethical Behaviors*. In: Ghaly, M. (ed). *End-of-Life Care, Dying and Death in the Islamic Moral Tradition*. Brill.
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- Padela, AI, and Mohiuddin, A. *Ethical Obligations and Clinical Goals in End-of-Life Care: Deriving a Quality of Life Construct Based on the Islamic Concept of 'Accountability Before God (Taqat)*. *The American Journal of Bioethics*, 2015-15(1):3-13.
- Padela, AI and Qureshi, O. *Islamic Perspective on Clinical Intervention near the End-of-Life: We Can but Must We?* *Med Health Care and Philos*, 2016
- Mohiuddin, A., Suleman, M., Rasheed, S., and Padela, A.I., 2020. *When can Muslims withdraw or withhold life support? A narrative review of Islamic juridical rulings*. *Global Bioethics*, 31(1), pp.29-46
- Padela, AI. *Probing the Boundaries of Death*. *Dissecting the Islamic Bioethics of Organ Donation*. Initiative on Islam and Medicine. September 10, 2018. Chicago, IL.

