



Session 3: An Introduction to Islamic Moral Epistemology Opening Lecture



@Initiative4IM

PART

1

Discourse
&
Concepts



PART

2

Theories
&
Frameworks



PART

3

Applied
Islamic
Bioethics



Modules

- **Session 3:**
 - An Introduction to Islamic Moral Epistemology
- **Session 4:**
 - Islamic Law & Bioethics
- **Session 5:**
 - Character Development and Islamic Bioethics

Sessions

Focus Questions

- What is the “Islamic” content of Islamic bioethics?
- What are sources of moral & ethical reflection in Islam?

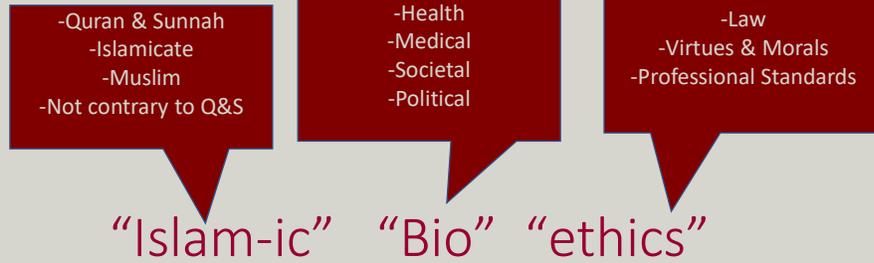
Self-Reflection Questions

- What makes something Islamic?
- Why are some actions good and moral?

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





Islamic Spin on Contemporary Bioethics?

Islamic Ethics applied to Biomedicine?



Relevance to Contemporary Islamic Projects

- These questions are fundamental to Islamic projects
 - “Islam” → informs methods and sources of mining the tradition
 - “Islamic” → informs the scope and authority of recovery/renewal/revival projects

- Constructing the field of “Islamic” bioethics demands conceptual rigor and clarity as it engages with other moral frameworks and thereby provides the venue for critical engagement with the intellectual tradition and its authority structures

Reviving Theological Ethics in Islam

- Does God command the good? Or is something good because God commanded it?
 - Labelling authority vs. Characteristic of action
 - 'Ashari vs. Mu'tazali views; Maturidi theology
 - Theological voluntarism/Deistic Subjectivism vs. Divine Command

- Epistemic Implications for Role of Reason in Ethics & Law
 - Does role for reason start where revelation ends?
 - Does reason help us bound the texts and calibrate rulings?
 - Must a rational basis exist in every rule?

Insights into the Materials: Constructing 'Islamic' (Bio)ethics

- Bouzenita, AI. *Formulating an Islamic Model of Science and Bioethics*. JIMA.2009; 41: 114-121
- Emon, AM. *Islamic Natural Law Theories*. Oxford University Press. 2010; 11-39
- Stelzer, S. *Ethics*. In T. Winter (Ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to Classical Islamic Theology*, pp. 161-179). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 2008
- Zysow, A. *Two Theories of the Obligation to Obey God's Command*. In *The Law Applied: Contextualizing the Islamic Shari'a: A Volume in Honor of Frank E. Vogel*. Edited by Peri Bearman, Wolfhart Heinrichs, and Bernard G. Weiss, 397-421. New York: I.B. Tauris, 2008
- Jackson, S. *Controversies in Islamic Law and Ethics*. Where Religion, Bioethics and Policy Meet: An Interdisciplinary Conference on Islamic Bioethics and End-of-Life Care April 10, 2011. Chicago, IL

