Being Becoming Belonging

Reimagining the Self, Space and Society

AUG 20 - OCT 31

Call For Papers *on*

TRAJECTORIES OF MUSLIMAH; ACROSS TIME, TEXTS & TRADITION

giokerala

GIO KERALA

Theme

The Girls Islamic Organisation, Kerala invites abstracts as part of an Academic Conference themed 'Trajectories of Muslimah; across time, texts and tradition', to be held on 14th November 2026. As part of the conference, GIO seeks to revive knowledge of Muslimah lives and lifeworlds that flourished throughout the histories of Muslim societies. This conference aims to contribute to the critical recovery and revitalisation of knowledges and histories of Muslim women that have been obscured or marginalised through various political and cultural entanglements, while examining how Muslim womanhood has been historically and dynamically constituted.

Muslim women inherit rich and diverse legacies in which their lives and subjectivities have been shaped through legal traditions, political formations, economic relations, kinship structures, religious institutions and ethical practices. Across different historical contexts, these interconnected spheres provided varied possibilities for ethical formation (tazkiyah), socio-political participation and collective life. Women's engagements within and across these spheres were integral to the formation of broader ethical and social orders.

Amid competing discourses of identity, agency and belonging, Muslimahs are positioned within multiple and often conflicting expectations of womanhood. Consequently, they continue to negotiate their roles across social, political, and domestic spheres, often experiencing a profound sense of uncertainty and disconnection.

Shifting political, economic and social formations continue to shape understandings of Muslim womanhood. Yet dominant assumptions within society often treat Muslim womanhood as a fixed and self-contained category detached from the historical and contemporary forces through which it has been constituted. Such assumptions imagine Muslim womanhood as static, regressive, and devoid of intellectual and political agency. We approach Muslim womanhood instead as a dynamic and historically situated formation, shaped by women's ongoing engagements with religious, social, political, domestic, and legal traditions across time and space.

We welcome academic papers that engage critically with this framework and explore the historical legacies, contemporary expressions, and future possibilities of Muslim womanhood across diverse contexts and spheres of lived experience. Contributions that recover marginalised histories, interrogate dominant assumptions and articulate diverse contemporary and future possibilities of Muslim womanhood are especially welcome.

Topics of the paper may include:

1. **Womanhood in Qur'anic and Hadith Textual Tradition**
   Conceptions & interpretations on roles, status and possibilities of Muslim womanhood

2. **Muslimah Legacy in the Prophetic period and the era of companions**
   Women's participation, authority and contributions across social, political, economic and legal spheres

3. **Roles of Nurturing**
   Motherhood, kinship, care and domesticity through Qur'anic and Sunnah lens

4. **Women and Finance / Economy**
   Possession of wealth, financial engagement and Waqf Endowment of Muslim women across history

5. **Hegemonies and Muslim Womanhood**
   Political, cultural, colonial, authoritarian and capitalist hegemonies shaping Muslim womanhood and forms of resistance

6. **Muslim Womanhood and Competing Modern Narratives**
   Countering Islamophobic and Liberal-Feminist Discourses

Guidelines

IMPORTANT DATES

Deadline for Submission of Abstract	Notification of Abstract Selection	Submission of Final Paper
Sept. 15	Sept. 20	Oct. 31

PUBLICATION AND PRESENTATION

Accepted papers shall be presented at the conference and will be published in the conference proceedings.

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- Abstracts must be between 250–300 words, outlining the research objective, methodology, key findings, and significance. Include 4–5 keywords below the main text.
- MS Word (.doc/.docx), Times New Roman, 12 pt font size, 1.5 line spacing, with 1-inch margins on all sides.
- Include paper title, full name(s), institutional affiliation, email address, and contact number at the top of the abstract document.
- Submit abstracts on or before September 15 th 2026, through the Google Form Link https://forms.gle/iikyET6g5KkHX8Ct6
- Save file names using the primary author's name (e.g., Abstract_LastName_FirstName.docx)

FULL PAPER GUIDELINES

- Full paper with abstract should be original and unpublished. Papers must adhere to standard academic integrity norms and pass a plagiarism check (below 10–15% similarity threshold).
- Strictly follow APA 7th Edition guidelines for in-text citations and the reference list.
- Submit full papers via the official mail of the conference trajectoriesofmuslimah@gmail.com
- Save file names using the primary author's name (e.g., paper on topic_LastName_FirstName.docx)
- Manuscripts containing entirely AI - generated content are not acceptable. Any use of generative AI must be disclosed in the Acknowledgements section, including the tool and purpose.

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