

# THE SHIFT FROM COMPARISON TO ENGAGEMENT: Interreligious Studies in Indonesia

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**Abstract:** This presentation addresses the evolution from Comparative Religion and Religious Studies to Interreligious Studies, emphasizing its potential impact on religious scholarship in Indonesia. Historically, Comparative Religion faculties in Indonesia have focused on analyzing and comparing the belief systems of the “other.” The transition to a religious studies approach provided broader cultural and historical insights. The current shift towards Interreligious Studies methodologies goes further, emphasizing active engagement and dialogue among diverse faiths, fostering deeper understanding and cooperation. This approach resonates profoundly in Indonesia, known for its rich mosaic of religious traditions. A key player in this transition is the Indonesian Consortium for Religious Studies (ICRS), which champions interfaith dialogue and collaborative learning. ICRS's efforts create spaces for meaningful conversations between religious communities, breaking down barriers and building trust. The presentation will explore how interfaith initiatives have enriched communal relations, enhanced religious education, and contributed to social harmony in Indonesia. This shift not only broadens academic perspectives but also nurtures a more inclusive and peaceful society.

**Keywords:** Interreligious Studies, Indonesia, Comparative Religion, Religious Studies.

# INTEGRATING RELIGIOUS STUDIES AND ISLAMIC STUDIES

**Prof. Ronald Lukens-Bull, University of North Florida**

**Abstract:** Western-style Religious Studies and Islamic Studies, known as Dirasat Dinniyyah, differ significantly in their objectives, methodologies, and epistemologies. However, they can be mutually beneficial and reinforcing. In this presentation, we will explore these three areas in search of common ground. For these two fields to reinforce each other, they must remain open to various possibilities. Each perspective must be willing to consider explanations, arguments, and sources of evidence that are not typically accepted within their own frameworks. For instance, from the standpoint of religious studies, belief in the supernatural must be considered at least as something that might have an effect. Conversely, from the standpoint of Dirasat Dinniyyah, there should be openness to explanations that do not necessarily involve the supernatural.

# DECOLONIZING ISLAMIC STUDIES AND POST-ORIENTALISM IN INDONESIA

**Prof. Muhamad Ali, PhD**

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**Abstract:** In addressing and rectifying the historical and impacts of colonialism, imperialism and Eurocentrism in the study of religions, including Islamic Studies, a growing number of Indonesian scholars have started to recognize power imbalances and the effects of colonialism on Islamic societies and academic discourse. In this presentation, I reflect on a number of ways in which Indonesian Muslim scholars from various backgrounds and regions affiliated with State Islamic Universities, have revalued indigenous knowledge called kearifan lokal ('local wisdom') by incorporating muatan lokal (local content) and critical thinking in the curriculum, including local terms (i.e. agama, din, in dialogue with religion), proses, poems, ethics, and material cultures in the study of Islam and Muslim societies. Many reassess secondary sources originating from English and Arabic with primary local Indonesian (Malay, Bugis, and other ethnic) manuscripts and cultures. Other scholars have begun developing inclusive pedagogy which includes marginalized and indigenous peoples, have considered environmental problems, and have embraced cross-disciplinary studies, such as history, anthropology, history, and political science, as well as Arab-based Islamic studies (tafsir, hadith, fiqh, adab), and have engaged hybrid concepts and theories to create a more equitable and holistic understanding of Islam and its diverse manifestations. I also highlight the way in which contemporary Indonesian Islamic Studies seek to combine academic pursuit and activism and expand participatory methods and collaborative networks in teaching, research, and publication in the spirit of post-Orientalism and cosmopolitanism.

**Keywords:** Colonialism Indonesian scholars, Islamic Studies, Indigenous knowledge, local wisdom.

# INTEGRATING SPIRITUAL CARE AND PSYCHOTHERAPY: A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO MODERN MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGES

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**Abstract:** This paper discusses how health services are a link to human civilization. Currently, we are in the third era of medicine, where the approach involves transpersonal experiences, therapy on the effects of awareness, healing, intercession, and healing prayers. Psychotherapy in practice is a combination of modern psychotherapy and spiritual therapy. As the dynamics of modern life become increasingly complex, human psychology experiences changes, especially in mental development that is affected by cultural and lifestyle modernization. According to WHO, in 2022, during the Covid-19 pandemic, the global prevalence of anxiety and depression increased by 25%. Data from the Ministry of Health in 2018 shows that around 9.8% or approximately 26 million of the 267 million people in Indonesia live with “mental emotional disorders” or mental health conditions. Integrating spiritual care into psychotherapy practice can offer a more holistic approach to healing, addressing patients' spiritual and existential dimensions in addition to their psychological needs. Through a comprehensive review of existing literature, this paper identifies the theoretical studies, practical skills, and attitudes that support this integrative approach. Case studies illustrate how spiritual care can complement various psychotherapy modalities, such as cognitive-behavioral therapy, psychodynamic therapy, and humanistic approaches. Findings suggest that incorporating spiritual care into psychotherapy not only expands therapeutic practice but also encourages deeper patient engagement through greater self-healing. The paper concludes with recommendations for healthcare professionals regarding the importance of cultural sensitivity, ethical considerations, and ongoing professional development. This integrative approach is expected to improve mental health care with holistic and humanistic treatment strategies.

**Keywords:** Spiritual Care; Psychotherapy; Holistic Approach; Mental Health; Cultural Sensitivity.