



Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura
(Islamic Religious Council of Singapore)

FATWA IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETIES 2024

CONFIDENT | RESILIENT | EMPOWERED

*Empowering Muslim Communities
of the Future through Fatwas*

2 – 3 February 2024
Singapore

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FATWA IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETIES 2024

INTRODUCTION

Muslim communities around the world face a multitude of evolving contemporary challenges in the 21st century. These challenges are complex and multi-faceted, spanning a wide range of social, political, religious and cultural dimensions.

Religious scholars need to continuously assess and adapt their approaches to address these pressing issues effectively, and guide Muslims in striking a delicate balance between their faith and the multifaceted demands of contemporary life. In so doing, they continue to remain true to the spirit and principles of the Islamic tradition and heritage, as responsible stewards of their communities and societies.

In Singapore, the fatwa institution plays a pivotal role in shaping the socio-religious life of the Muslim community by offering solutions through religious guidance and Fatwas. Due to the intricate nature of the contemporary conditions and contexts of Muslim societies, religious scholars and experts from diverse backgrounds should engage in constructive and comprehensive dialogue and discussion to find effective solutions to complex issues and challenges.



Reference: Conference on Fatwa in Contemporary societies 2017

FATWA IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETIES 2024

THEME

Muis will be convening the Fatwa in Contemporary Societies from 2 to 3 February 2024. The theme of the conference is **“Empowering Muslims Communities of the Future through Fatwas”**.

To address contemporary and emerging issues affecting the community, the Fatwa Committee of Singapore issues new fatwas whilst actively imparting ethical values in the religious guidance to empower individuals and the community. One of the defining features of Fatwa institutions in Singapore is to enable the Muslim community to embrace and embody religious and universal values.

The term "empowering" captures the goal of both intellectual and ethical empowerment in individuals to navigate their unique challenges through guidance from Fatwas, thereby facilitating their development into principled contributors within their communities.

The approach of issuing a fatwa while empowering the community with values is grounded in the belief that Shariah is more than just a collection of laws. It is, in fact, a way of life that offers solutions and guides the community toward a path of success firmly anchored in enduring universal values and principles. Therefore, a fatwa does not only provide religious positions and guidance, but should also educate and nurture a confident mindset that is developed from strong morals and principles. A community that is empowered will be able to make informed decisions in their daily lives, even in the face of significant challenges such as in the recent COVID-19 pandemic.

FATWA IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETIES 2024

KEY QUESTIONS

The Conference on Fatwa in Contemporary Societies 2024 seeks to address the following key questions:

- 1. How contextualised fatwas can cultivate intellectual and ethical empowerment in Muslims, facilitating their development into principled contributors of their communities and wider societies.**

In particular, it will discuss the role of fatwas in shaping Muslim communities that embody universal values, guided by enduring principles, and can promote compassion and harmony. It seeks to discuss the evolving concept of fatwas in guiding Muslims to live effectively and confidently in facing contemporary challenges in plural societies.

- 2. How fatwa institutions can remain resilient and continue to facilitate the development of robust and comprehensive solutions for the Muslim community in addressing their evolving needs.**

In particular, it will discuss developments within fatwa thinking and solutioning in adopting comprehensive, inclusive and collaborative approaches, to facilitate the understanding of complex contemporary issues, and development of nuanced and contextually relevant fatwas that empower Muslims to navigate present and future challenges.



Reference: Fatwa in Contemporary Societies 2017

FATWA IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETIES 2024

OUTCOMES

The Conference on Fatwa in Contemporary Societies 2024 seeks to achieve the following outcomes:

- **Share the contributions of the Singapore Fatwa Committee to the growth of contemporary Islamic jurisprudence through its contextualized and progressive fatwas**, rooted in Islamic traditions and cognisant of the lived realities and the changing needs of the community.
- **Highlight the evolution of fatwas in line with the changing context of Singapore**, illustrating the dynamism of Islamic jurisprudence, and the idea of compassion in engaging with complex and challenging issues faced by Muslim communities.
- **Empower confident religious leaders and scholars to engage with Islamic legal and ethical issues in a meaningful way**, who in turn will shape a confident Muslim community.



Reference: Fatwa in Contemporary Societies 2017



FATWA IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETIES 2024

PROGRAMME

DAY 1 | 2 FEBRUARY (FRIDAY)

6.00 pm	Registration <i>Light refreshments will be provided.</i>
7.45 pm	Opening
8.30 pm	Opening Speech <i>By Deputy Prime Minister Heng Swee Keat, Deputy Prime Minister and Coordinating Minister for Economic Policies, Singapore</i>
8.45 pm	Official Launch of Conference & Fatwa Compilation Volume II
9.00 pm	Empowering for the Future: The Transformative Role of Fatwas in Shaping Muslim Communities <i>By Ustaz Dr. Nazirudin Mohd Nasir, Mufti of Singapore</i>
9.30 pm	End of Day 1

DAY 2 | 3 FEBRUARY (SATURDAY)

8.15 am	Registration
9.00 am	Opening
9.10 am	Quran Recitation
9.15 am	The Evolution of Fatwas in Contemporary Contexts: Navigating Diversity and Complexity <i>By H.E. Prof. Dr. Shawki Ibrahim Abdel-Karim Allam, Grand Mufti of Egypt</i>
9.40 am	Community-Centred Fatwa Issuance: Building Trust and Inclusivity <i>By Prof. Dr. Amany Lubis, Council Member of the UAE Council for Fatwa</i>
10.05 am	Designing Collaborative and Interdisciplinary Approaches in Developing Nuanced and Contextualised Fatwas <i>By H.E. Prof. Dr. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, Secretary-General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (Majma' al-Fiqh al-Islami al-Duwali), Saudi Arabia</i>
10.30 am	Tea Break
10.55 am	Panel Discussion <i>Moderated by Ustazah Farah Mahamood Aljunied, Director of Higher Education and Research, Muis, Singapore</i>
11.55 am	Fatwa Lab Introductory Video
12.00 am	Presentation on Fatwa Lab
12.15 pm	Lunch & Prayers

2.00 pm

Plenary Sessions by Fatwa Lab

Food Technology

Cultivated Meat and Maqasid Shariah: A Masalahah-Mafsadah Assessment

Moderated by Mr. Zalman Ali,
Director, Halal Development, Muis, Singapore

- *Dr. Maanasa Ravikumar, SciTech Specialist, The Good Food Institute APAC, Singapore*
- *Ustaz Dr. Izal Mustafa Kamar, Deputy Mufti, Singapore*
- *Ustazah Zahratun Rofiqah Mochamad Sandisi, Fatwa Lab Researcher, Singapore*

Artificial Intelligence

Optimising Fatwa Research with AI: Enhancing Efficiency, Implementations and Challenges

Moderated by Ustaz Dr. Mohamed Ali,
Senior Associate Member of Fatwa Committee

- *Mr. Glen Francis, Strategic Advisor, Google, Singapore*
- *Ustaz Sheikh Mohamad Farouq, Associate Research Fellow, Research Programme in the Study of Muslim Communities of Success (RPCS), Singapore*
- *Ustaz Ahmad Khalil Mohamed Rafii, Fatwa Lab Researcher, Singapore*

Medical Technology

Religious Considerations for Singaporean Muslims Regarding Carrier Screening for Genetic Diseases

Moderated by Ustaz Dr. Rizhan,
Associate Member of Fatwa Committee, Singapore

- *Dr. Saumya Shekhar Jamuar, Senior Consultant, Genetics Service KK Women's and Children's Hospital, Singapore*
- *Ustaz Dr. Mohammad Hannan Hassan, Deputy Mufti, Singapore*
- *Ustazah Husna Azzakiyah Muhammad Haniff, Fatwa Lab Researcher, Singapore*

Finance

Development of Cash Wakaf in Singapore: Leveraging on Contemporary Financial Instruments

Moderated by Ms. Dewi Hartaty Suratty,
Director, Asset Policy and Endowment, Muis, Singapore

- *Mr. Masagoes Isyak Amin, CEO, Warees Investment, Muis, Singapore*
- *Ustaz Dr. Mohd Murat Md Aris, Deputy Mufti, Singapore*
- *Ustaz Muhammad Haris Affandi, Fatwa Lab Researcher, Singapore*

DAY 2 | 3 FEBRUARY (SATURDAY)

3.30 pm

Tea Break & Gallery Walk of Fatwa Lab Projects

4.30 pm

Concluding Remarks

By Ustaz Dr. Nazirudin Mohd Nasir, Mufti of Singapore

5.00 pm

Closing

End of Day 2

FATWA IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETIES 2024

OPENING SPEECH

GUEST-OF-HONOUR



DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER HENG SWEE KEAT

*Deputy Prime Minister and Coordinating Minister
for Economic Policies, Singapore*

Mr. Heng Swee Keat is Deputy Prime Minister and Coordinating Minister for Economic Policies.

Mr Heng chairs the tripartite Future Economy Council which oversees the on-going restructuring of our economy, through upgrading the skills of our workers and transformation of industry. He is also the Chairman of the National Research Foundation, which sets the direction for Singapore's research, innovation and enterprise (RIE) strategies.

Mr Heng served as Minister for Education from 2011 to 2015 and as Minister for Finance from 2015 to 2021.

Before entering politics in May 2011, Mr Heng was the Managing Director of the Monetary Authority of Singapore. He has an MA in Economics from Cambridge University and holds a Master in Public Administration from the Harvard Kennedy School.

FATWA IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETIES 2024

LAUNCH OF FATWA COMPILATION VOLUME II



The Office of the Mufti launched the Fatwa Compilation Series, comprising a collection of fatwas that offer guidance on specific areas and address various issues faced by the Singapore Muslim community. It offers in-depth analysis of the fatwas issued by the community, and highlights how the interpretation of classical religious sources interact with the socio-religious context in the issuance of fatwa.

The second edition of the Fatwa Compilation Series, titled “Fatwa of Singapore: Inheritance, Estate Planning, and Distribution”, will be launched at the Fatwa in Contemporary Societies 2024 conference. This edition will focus on issues relating to inheritance, estate planning, and distribution of wealth.

FATWA IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETIES 2024

KEYNOTE SPEECHES

EMPOWERING FOR THE FUTURE: THE TRANSFORMATIVE ROLE OF FATWAS IN SHAPING MUSLIM COMMUNITIES



USTAZ DR. NAZIRUDIN MOHD NASIR

Mufti of Singapore

Ustaz Dr. Nazirudin will explore the on the pivotal objective of nurturing intellectual and ethical empowerment of confident Muslim communities through the Fatwas. He will discuss the critical function of Fatwa institutions in facilitating the adoption and internalization of enduring values and established principles of Islam into the very essence of the Muslim communities, to nurture Muslims who is resilient and confident in navigating the increasingly complex socio-religious issues and challenges, as responsible stewards of their faith and leaders of the community and humanity at large.

Ustaz Dr. Nazirudin Mohd Nasir was appointed as Mufti of Singapore in March 2020. As the chair of the Fatwa Committee, he takes the lead in providing guidance for the Muslim community's religious life. He is also a member of the Presidential Council of Religious Harmony, Singapore.

Prior to becoming Mufti, Dr. Nazirudin led religious policy and development work in Muis. He has a wealth of experience in areas such as Islamic education, fatwa and religious policies, and interfaith and social cohesion work. He was instrumental in developing fatwas such as organ donation and joint-tenancy, and in formulating ethical positions on biomedical issues. In recognition of his exceptional leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic, he was awarded the prestigious Imam Al-Qarafi Award in 2022 by the General Secretariat for Fatwa Authorities Worldwide, led by Egypt's Dar al-Ifta.

Dr. Nazirudin obtained his degree in Islamic law from Al-Azhar University in Cairo, as well as an M.A. (with distinction) in comparative law from the School of Oriental and African Studies in London and an M.St. in religion from Oxford. He was conferred a D. Phil in the study of Abrahamic religions from the University of Oxford, UK. He was a Chevening scholar, Institute of Advance Studies of the Humanities-Alwaleed fellow at the University of Edinburgh, and is an Associate Faculty member at the Singapore University of the Social Sciences. He was recently conferred Singapore's Public Administration Service Medal (Silver).

FATWA IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETIES 2024

KEYNOTE SPEECHES

THE EVOLUTION OF FATWAS IN CONTEMPORARY CONTEXTS: NAVIGATING DIVERSITY AND COMPLEXITYS



H.E. PROF. DR. SHAWKI IBRAHIM ABDEL-KARIM ALLAM

Grand Mufti of Egypt

H.E. Prof. Dr. Shawki Ibrahim Abdel-Karim Allam will examine the evolving concept and role of fatwa in today's dynamic and plural world. He will discuss tools, methodologies, and concepts in cultivating progressive fatwa thinking and institution that safeguard human dignity and promote compassion and harmony in diverse contemporary societies. Particularly, he will discuss the key concept of Fiqh Aqalliyat in providing practical solutions that are in line with Islamic principles while also taking into account the realities of the unique circumstances and challenges faced by minority Muslim communities.

H.E. Prof. Dr. Allam will also discuss the significance of capacity building for religious leaders to develop the necessary knowledge and skills in issuing fatwas in the current age, and the need for greater collaboration among global fatwa institutions in face of increasingly complex realities.

A distinguished scholar and prominent figure in the Islamic world, H.E. Prof. Dr. Shawki Ibrahim Abdel-Karim Allam is the Grand Mufti of Egypt and the Chairman of the Supreme Council of the General Secretariat for Fatwa Authorities Worldwide.

Dr. Allam is widely recognized for his extensive research and prolific writing on various topics related to Islamic Jurisprudence, including women's political engagement, criminal justice, the codification of Islamic law, religious minorities, and Islamic thought. Dr. Allam's outstanding contributions to promoting interfaith understanding and combating violent extremism have also been recognized internationally, with awards such as the Best Promoter of Interfaith Understanding by the Interfaith Alliance in South Korea in 2014, and the Medal of Excellence in Pakistan in 2018.

Dr. Allam earned his degree in Shariah and Law from Al-Azhar University in 1984, and later obtained his PhD in Fiqh from the same institution in 1996.

FATWA IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETIES 2024

KEYNOTE SPEECHES

COMMUNITY-CENTRED FATWA ISSUANCE: BUILDING TRUST AND INCLUSIVITY



PROF. DR. AMANY LUBIS

Council Member of the UAE Council for Fatwa

Prof. Dr. Amany Lubis will explore the critical role of public engagement throughout the process of fatwa issuance, from the development to the communication of fatwas, and the challenges and opportunities it presents. She will discuss strategies in achieving a more inclusive and comprehensive engagement, to empower Muslim communities and foster an impactful and credible process of fatwa issuance that is responsive to the evolving needs of its community.

Prof. Dr. Amany Lubis is a Council Member of the UAE Council for Fatwa. She is the Rector (and first women Chancellor) of the Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic University Islamic (UIN) in Jakarta, and lecturer at the Postgraduate School of Strategic and Global Studies in Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies at the University of Indonesia.

Dr. Lubis served as the Chairperson of the Indonesian Ulema Council for Women, Youth and Families, and the Member of the Board of Trustees Forum for Promoting Peace in Muslim Societies, Abu Dhabi. She has participated in international forums, and published extensively on various topics related to Islamic law and ethics, including family law, technology, and environmental ethics.

Dr. Lubis completed her undergraduate studies at Al-Azhar University in Cairo, Egypt. She then continued her masters and doctoral degrees at the Graduate School of Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic (UIN) Jakarta.

FATWA IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETIES 2024

KEYNOTE SPEECHES

DESIGNING COLLABORATIVE AND INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES IN DEVELOPING NUANCED AND CONTEXTUALISED FATWAS



H.E. PROF. DR. KOUTOUB MOUSTAPHA SANO

Secretary-General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (Majma' al-Fiqh al-Islami al-Duwali)

H.E Prof. Dr. Koutoub Moustapha Sano will explore the importance of a deep and comprehensive understanding of the lived realities in the process of Fatwa issuance. He will discuss ways to develop collaborative and interdisciplinary tools critical in the process of fatwa issuance of today, to facilitate the unpacking and understanding of complex and multifaceted contemporary and future issues faced by Muslim communities and the development of nuanced and contextually relevant fatwas to address current and emerging needs.

H.E Prof. Dr. Koutoub Moustapha Sano is the Secretary-General of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (Majma' al-Fiqh al-Islami al-Duwali), board member of the Muslim Council Elders, and the Co-President for Religions for Peace. He has published several outstanding research papers, and is the author of over twenty-five published books.

Dr. Sano was a university professor and trustee of the International Islamic University of Malaysia (IIUM), founding director of the International Institute for the Unity of the Islamic Nation in Malaysia, and chairman of the Shariah Council of Islamic Banks and Financial Institutions. He served as the Minister of Religious Affairs, Minister of International Cooperation and African Integration, Minister of Diplomatic Affairs in the Office of the President, and Diplomatic Advisor to the President in the Republic of Guinea.

Dr. Sano obtained his degree with first class honours in Jurisprudence and its Fundamentals and his magister degree with a mention of excellence in the Fundamentals of Jurisprudence from King Saud University in Saudi Arabia. He received a PhD in Law (subspecialty in Fundamentals of Jurisprudence) with distinction and a postgraduate degree in Islamic Finance and Banking from IIUM Centre for Economics, and a PhD in Islamic Sciences (Islamic Finance) with a very honorablehonourable distinction from the Higher Institute of Theology of Al-Zaytuna University, Tunis.

FATWA IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETIES 2024

KEYNOTE SPEECHES

MODERATOR



USTAZAH FARAH MAHAMOOD ALJUNIED

Director of Higher Education and Research, Muis, Singapore

Ustazah Farah Mahamood Aljunied was recently appointed to lead the Higher Education and Research Cluster in Muis. Her work provides her the opportunity to nurture future Asatizah for Singapore by providing them various learning and development opportunities at the postgraduate level. This includes the provision of the Postgraduate Certificate in Islam in Contemporary Societies (PCICS) for returning graduates from Islamic Universities who intend to apply for the Asatizah Recognition Scheme (ARS) qualification; and conduct, discourse and publication of research works that seek to develop contextualised bodies of knowledge on socio-religious issues that are typical for Muslim communities living in secular states and advanced economies through the Research Programme in the Study of Muslim Communities of Success (RPCS).

Ustazah Farah's years at Muis have seen her covering various aspects of Education-related work which include the development and implementation of the revised Joint Madrasah System's (JMS) primary, secondary and pre-university level Islamic Studies Integrated Curriculum, the management and development of Singapore students in Islamic Universities overseas, and the development and the conduct of the part-time Mosque Madrasah programme known as aLIVE (Learning Islamic Values Everyday) as well as the revision and implementation of Mosque Based Kindergartens' curriculum.

Due to her experience and strong background in education and early childhood, Ustazah Farah is also actively involved in various Islamic parenting talks and seminars like Islamic Parenting Seminar in 2014, and Parenting IRL: Raising the Snapchat Generation in 2016. She also conducts training programmes for Asatizah through the Continuing Professional Education (CPE) Programme.

FATWA LAB

INTRODUCTION

The Fatwa Lab serves as a platform for aspiring scholars, experts and researchers to engage in in-depth discussions, analysis and collaborations on new and future socio-religious issues under the remit of fatwa work.

One of the key objectives of the Fatwa Lab is to foster intellectual growth, the spirit of solutioning, and knowledge sharing among the Muslim community. It provides a platform for researchers to exercise creative and critical thinking and solutioning, and collaborate with other experts, jurists, and mentors. It facilitates a comprehensive, informed, and holistic approach to address complex and multifaceted contemporary and future challenges within the framework of Islamic jurisprudence, using the tools of both Islamic sciences and the social sciences, to achieve balance in developing solutions that are robust, progressive, yet rooted to the fundamental principles and values of Islam.

The Fatwa Lab seeks to advance scholarly discourse, and nurture future leaders in the field of Islamic jurisprudence. It enables researchers to gain insights from experts and valuable experiences while developing religious leadership and talents. It also provides opportunities for young Asatizah to be involved early in Fatwa-related work and gain practical experience in applying Islamic jurisprudence to real-world issues.

The upcoming Fatwa in Contemporary Societies 2024 will feature several projects and findings by teams of researchers under The Fatwa Lab, centred around four domains of research:



The Conference will also feature FLP's industry partnerships within the above domains which have played a critical role in providing valuable expertise and a more comprehensive understanding of contemporary issues faced by the Muslim community.

Read more about the Fatwa Lab [here](#).



FATWA LAB

FOOD TECHNOLOGY

CULTIVATED MEAT AND MAQASID SHARIAH: A MASLAHAH - MAFSADAH ASSESSMENT

The focus of the discussion is to assess the permissibility and ethical considerations of 'cultivated meat' from an Islamic viewpoint, employing the Maqāsid approach, exploring its potential benefits and comprehending the diverse challenges in developing positions on novel food products. The session aims to examine both the scientific and religious aspects of cultivated meat, offering valuable insights for industry stakeholders, policymakers, and researchers.



DR. MAANASA RAVIKUMAR

SciTech Specialist, The Good Food Institute APAC, Singapore

Dr. Maanasa Ravikumar is GFI APAC's SciTech Specialist for cultivated meat. Prior to joining GFI, she worked as a scientist at Ivy Farm Technologies in the UK, spearheading research into multi-species cultivated meat products.

Dr. Maanasa is passionate about science communication and has volunteered for various initiatives aimed at increasing engagement between researchers and the general public. She holds a Ph.D. in stem cell glycobiology from the National University of Singapore and a Bachelor's degree in biomedical science from the University of Sheffield.



USTAZ DR. IZAL MUSTAFA KAMAR

Deputy Mufti, Singapore

Ustaz Dr. Izal Mustafa Kamar is currently the Deputy Mufti at the Islamic Religious Council of Singapore (Muis). He graduated with a master's degree in Fiqh and Usul Fiqh from the University College of Da'wah in Beirut. He previously studied Islamic Law and Jurisprudence at Al-Azhar University. He also earned a Doctor of Philosophy in Islamic Studies from the University of Technology (UTM), Raja Zarith Sofiah Center for Advanced Studies in Islam, Science, and Civilization, Malaysia.

Ustaz Dr. Izal joined Muis in 2009 followed by the appointment as the Head of the Office of the Mufti, and Deputy Director (Office of the Mufti - Religious Policy). In his experience for more than a decade, he has played an important role in managing fatwa research. He is involved in the development of fatwas on key issues such as joint tenancy, CPF and Insurance Nomination, as well as the religious position on the Special Needs Trust Company Scheme and is involved in matters related to astronomy (falak).



USTAZAH ZAHRATUR ROFIQAH MOCHAMAD SANDISI

Fatwa Lab Researcher, Singapore

Ustazah Zahratur Rofiqah Mochamad Sandisi is currently leading a Fatwa Lab group tasked with investigating the Islamic perspective of cultivated meat as part of the ongoing discussions on novel food technology. She graduated from Madrasah Wak Tanjong Al-Islamiah and holds a Bachelor's degree and Master in Islamic Jurisprudence and its Foundation from the University of Jordan.

Currently, Ustazah Zahratur Rofiqah serves as a lecturer and examination assessment officer at the Singapore Islamic Scholars & Religious Teachers Association (PERGAS) and is an active volunteer in the social service sector. Her research interests include socio-religious issues and climate change.



MR. ZALMAN ALI

Director, Halal Development, Muis, Singapore

Mr. Zalman Ali is currently the Director of Halal Development in Islamic Religious Council of Singapore (Muis). He has more than twenty years' experience in the Muslim community sector where he was involved in pioneering efforts to set up new research and strategic policy units. He began his career in Muis in 1998 in the Office of the Mufti. His past roles include developing Singapore's madrasah and Islamic education sectors and future Islamic higher education institution, driving efforts to shape progressive religious thinking and conceptualising the interfaith agenda, strategic policy development on emerging issues like management of diversity, counter-extremism and exclusivism.

In 2006, Mr. Zalman was awarded the Fulbright Scholarship to pursue an MA in Religious Studies at Hartford International University for Religion and Peace in Connecticut, USA. His area of research interest is on the role of religion in modern societies.

CHAIR

FATWA LAB

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

OPTIMISING FATWA RESEARCH WITH AI: ENHANCING EFFICIENCY, IMPLEMENTATIONS AND CHALLENGES

The session aims to explore the potential of integrating AI technologies into fatwa research. This integration seeks to enhance the accuracy, speed, and depth of research by leveraging AI-driven methods like prompt tuning and technologies such as bots to extract and analyse pertinent information from Islamic texts and scholarly sources. It also addresses potential challenges and ethical considerations associated with this integration, proposing strategies for responsible and effective use of AI in fatwa research.



MR. GLEN FRANCIS

Strategic Advisor, Google, Singapore

Mr. Glen Francis has been in the technology field for over 25 years. He has worked across six industries in the fields of digital, data, IT, and eCommerce. He presently works in Google Cloud as their Strategic Advisor. He is a Board member of The Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority (ACRA) and a member of the Technology Committee for the Tsao Foundation. He also serves as a member of the President's Technology Award Committee and as a Mentor at the Center of Technology Management for Columbia University (NYC).

Mr. Glen was the former CTO of Singapore Press Holdings (SPH) and a board member for several of SPH's businesses. Prior to SPH, he founded Spark by CIO Academy Asia as an entrepreneur and was its past President in 2014. At Spark, he helped develop its brand and a thriving community of Tech leaders across the Asia region. He holds an MBA from the University of Adelaide.



USTAZ SHEIKH MOHAMAD FAROUQ

Associate Research Fellow, Research Programme in the Study of Muslim Communities of Success (RPCS), Singapore

Ustaz Sheikh Mohamad Farouq Abdul Fareez is an Associate Research Fellow in the Research Programme in the Study of Muslim Communities of Success (RPCS). He obtained his first degree in Comparative Religion and Usuluddin from the International Islamic University of Malaysia and holds two master's degree in Islamic Thought and Applied Ethics as well as Asian Studies with a special focus on inter-religious relations in plural societies.

Ustaz Farouq's area of research interest involves issues concerning religion, human development, and ethics. He is currently working on a research project that seeks to understand the interplay between AI and Islam to ensure that emerging technologies are advanced for human flourishing and the common good.



USTAZ AHMAD KHALIL MOHAMED RAFII

Fatwa Lab Researcher, Singapore

Ustaz Ahmad Khalil graduated from Kuwait University, specialising in Comparative Jurisprudence and Policy of Sharia. As a thriving Data Analyst and Scientist who has worked with Apple and Shell, Ahmad is continuously upskilling himself in the AI and Data industry, seamlessly combining academic and professional pursuits. Concurrently, he serves as a lecturer in Islamic Studies, maintaining a dynamic connection with his educational roots. With research interests spanning artificial intelligence (AI), large language models (LLM), and natural language processing (NLP), Ahmad aspires to explore the integration of Islamic texts with cutting-edge technology, bridging tradition and innovation.

Ustaz Ahmad Khalil is currently actively involved in the fatwa lab group, where they are exploring the potential of integrating AI technologies into fatwa research.



USTAZ DR. MOHAMED ALI

Senior Associate Member of Fatwa Committee, Singapore

Ustaz Dr. Mohamed Ali is Senior Fellow in the Studies in Inter-Religious Relations in Plural Societies (SRP) Programme at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore. He obtained his Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Islamic Jurisprudence from Al-Azhar University in Cairo, Egypt in 2002, Master of Science (MSc) in International Relations at RSIS, NTU in 2007 and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Arab and Islamic Studies from the University of Exeter, United Kingdom in 2013. He also graduated with a Specialist Diploma in Counselling Psychology from Academy of Certified Counsellors, Singapore in 2006.

Ustaz Dr. Mohamed is currently a member of the Syariah Appeal Board of the Islamic Religious Council of Singapore (Muis), senior associate member of the Fatwa Committee in Singapore, and member of Muis Wakaf (Endowment) Dispute Resolution Committee. He was conferred the National Day Award 2022 – Public Service Medal (Pingat Bakti Masyarakat or PBM) by the President of Singapore in August 2022.

CHAIR

FATWA LAB

MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY

RELIGIOUS CONSIDERATIONS FOR SINGAPOREAN MUSLIMS REGARDING CARRIER SCREENING FOR GENETIC DISEASES

The discussion aims to explore the effective implementation of a value-based approach to customised carrier screening. The main goal is to offer religious guidance for Muslim couples to make decisions in line with Shariah principles, and to develop specific framework for this purpose. Additionally, it aims to explore the anticipated future consequences of such screenings and reproductive options for family planning within the framework of Shariah, and how the established framework can assist Muslim couples in navigating these emerging challenges.



DR. SAUMYA SHEKHAR JAMUAR

Senior Consultant, Genetics Service KK Women's and Children's Hospital, Singapore

Dr. Saumya Shekhar Jamuar is a clinical geneticist at KK Women's and Children's Hospital and genomics co-lead of SingHealth Duke-NUS Maternal Child Health Research Institute. He strongly believes in using the advancements made in technologies related to genetics to improve the health of people. His training in paediatrics allows him to appreciate the severity of rare but lethal childhood illnesses and, more importantly, recognise the fact that a significant proportion of these illnesses have a genetic component. In his desire to improve care across the health industry, he is actively involved in developing diagnostic genetic tests for patients with various medical disorders, including autism spectrum disorder, intellectual disability, and brain malformations.

Dr. Saumya holds an MBBS from National University of Singapore. He also holds a Membership of the Royal College of Paediatric and Child Health (M.R.C.P.C.H), UK, and is a Fellow of Academy of Medicine (F.A.M.S), Singapore and American Board of Medical Genetics and Genomics, USA. He has completed his Clinical Genetics training from the Harvard Medical School.



USTAZ DR. MOHAMMAD HANNAN HASSAN

Deputy Mufti, Singapore

Ustaz Dr. Mohammad Hannan Hassan is currently the Deputy Mufti at the Islamic Religious Council of Singapore (Muis). He currently oversees community engagement, public education and engagement in Office of the Mufti. He also advises the Community Religious Life through the One Mosque Sector, and Interfaith relations. He chairs the Continuing Professional Education (CPE) Panel of the Asatizah Recognition Scheme (ARS).

Ustaz Dr. Hannan obtained his PhD in Islamic Studies from McGill University, Canada after receiving his Master of Arts (Islamic Civilization) from the International Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilization (ISTAC), Kuala Lumpur, and his Bachelor of Education (BEd) from Kuwait. He specializes in Muslim-Jewish relations, interfaith relations, history, and philosophy of Islamic law in the Malay Archipelago, and Islamic history and philosophy of education. He is also a board member of the International Abrahamic Forum (IAF), as part of the International Council of Christians and Jews (ICJJ), based in Heppenheim, Germany.



USTAZAH HUSNA AZZAKIYAH MUHAMMAD HANIFF

Fatwa Lab Researcher, Singapore

Ustazah Husna Azzakiyah Muhammad Haniff received her early formal education from Madrasah Al-Irsyad Al-Islamiah and Madrasah Al-Ma'arif Al-Islamiah. She later graduated with a Bachelor's degree (Hons) in Fiqh and Usul al-Fiqh from the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM). Currently, she holds an executive position at Darul Tafzir, Al-Khair Mosque.

Ustazah Husna Azzakiyah enjoys conducting interdisciplinary research by delving into current and emerging issues, their causes, the necessary religious considerations, and exploring different solutions. Working on contemporary Fiqh issues fulfils her passion for religious studies and contributing to society. She was recently tasked to lead a Fatwa Lab group researching on the Islamic perspective of carrier screening for genetic diseases.



USTAZ DR. MOHD RIZHAN LEMAN

Associate Member of Fatwa Committee, Singapore

Ustaz Dr. Mohd Rizhan Leman completed his pre-university studies at Tampines Junior College. He attained his first degree in Shariah from the Islamic University of Madinah. He continued his Masters in the field of Comparative Law at the International Islamic University Malaysia. He graduated from the International Islamic University Malaysia with a Doctor of Philosophy in Islamic Revealed Knowledge and Heritage (Fiqh and Usul Fiqh).

Ustaz Dr. Rizhan is currently a freelance educator and an associate member of the Fatwa Committee in Singapore.

CHAIR

FATWA LAB

FINANCE

DEVELOPMENT OF CASH WAKAF IN SINGAPORE: LEVERAGING ON CONTEMPORARY FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The conversation aims to investigate innovative financial tools and strategies to enhance the use of Cash Wakaf for community development in the existing Wakaf environment in Singapore. It also aims to discuss the religious legitimacy and scholarly consensus surrounding the establishment of Cash Wakaf, aligning these principles with the ethical and financial considerations within Islamic finance and investment frameworks, thereby offering valuable insights for the advancement and broadening of Cash Wakaf utilisation.



MR. MASAGOES ISYAKAMIN

CEO, Warees Investment, Muis, Singapore

Mr. Masagoes Isyak Amin is an experienced professional with a career that spans over 17 years in various private and public sector roles. He is a graduate of National University of Singapore with a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science. He currently serves as the Chief Executive Officer of Warees Investments, a niche asset management company serving the Muslim community in Singapore. He specializes in the areas of digital transformation, marketing, advertising, and property investments. He has led digitalization efforts within Muis including the launch of seven high profile tech systems and developed marketing and advertising strategies to enhance public education.

Today, Mr. Masagoes Isyak leads a team of real estate professionals in managing, developing, and upgrading community assets and institutions.



USTAZ DR. MOHD MURAT MD ARIS

Deputy Mufti, Singapore

Ustaz Dr. Mohd Murat Md Aris serves as the Deputy Mufti at the Islamic Religious Council of Singapore (Muis) where he is responsible for overseeing religious policies and providing support to the Mufti in guiding the religious development of the Muslim community. Previously, he held the positions of Senior Acting Director of Education and Director in the Office of the Mufti. Apart from his role at Muis, Ustaz Dr. Murat is actively involved in the Religious Rehabilitation Group (RRG), serves as a member of the Asatizah Recognition Board (ARB), and has contributed significantly to the development of asatizah as a member of the Singapore Islamic Scholars and Religious Teachers Association (PERGAS).

Ustaz Dr. Murat graduated from Al-Azhar University in Cairo, Egypt, with a degree in Faith and Philosophy, and holds a Diploma in Islamic Law from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), a master's degree from the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM), and a PhD in religious studies from the University of Cape Town, South Africa, under the supervision of Professor Abdulkader Tayob.



USTAZ MUHAMMAD HARIS AFFANDI

Fatwa Lab Researcher, Singapore

Ustaz Muhammad Haris Bin Affandi, who recently graduated from the University of Jordan with a major in Islamic Jurisprudence and Its Foundations, currently holds the position of Finance and Accounting Executive at Warees Investments.

Ustaz Haris' keen research interests span across various dimensions; Islamic Fintech, Religious Policy & Governance, Fatwa Formulation while actively contributing to community development initiatives. His commitment to Islamic Legal Theory and Community Welfare enriches discussion, fostering a connection between traditional Islamic principles and contemporary paradigms.



MS. DEWI HARTATY SURATTY

Director, Asset Policy and Endowment, Muis, Singapore

Ms. Dewi Hartaty Suratty is the Director of Asset Policy and Endowment at Muis, where she spearheads the strategic development and administration of community funds, including zakat, wakaf, and inheritance. Concurrently, she serves as the CEO of Warees Halal.

Ms. Dewi's contributions have been recognised in the publication 'Contribution of Women in the Global Islamic Economy', an initiative under the patronage of the Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries. She holds a Master of Business Administration (Distinction) and a professional certificate in wealth planning.

CHAIR

PARTNERS

FATWA IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETIES 2024



مجلس الشورى الإسلامي
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REFERENCES

FATWA COMMITTEE



The **Fatwa Committee of Singapore**, chaired by the Mufti of Singapore, engages in comprehensive deliberation to provide solutions and religious guidance to the community in navigating their socio-religious life, particularly in response to emerging and pressing needs. Since its inception in 1968, the Fatwa Committee has formulated fatwas to address a diverse range of contemporary issues spanning domains such as social, medical, financial, scientific, etc.

Read more about the Fatwas issued by the Fatwa Committee of Singapore [here](#).



FATWA IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETIES 2017

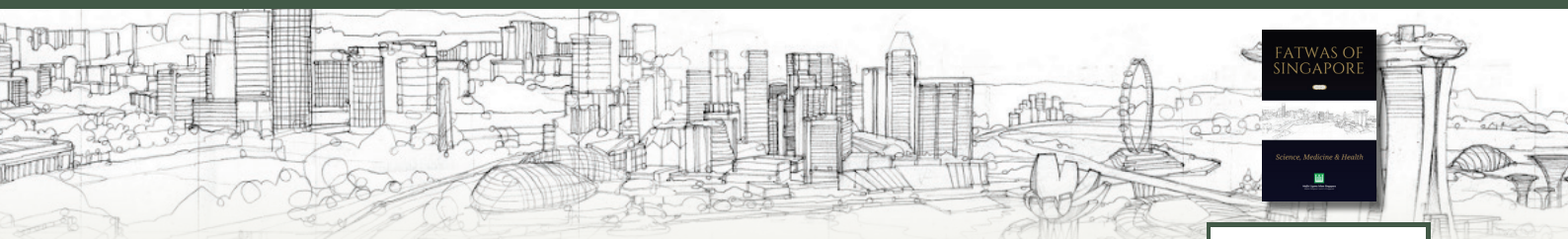


The **Fatwa in Contemporary Societies 2017** brought together global religious scholars and experts to explore tools and methodologies for fatwa development and thinking in face of the ever-changing societal contexts and new challenges. It highlighted how fatwas have evolved in line with the changing context of Singapore, illustrating the continued dynamism of Islamic jurisprudence.

Read the keynote speech by then Deputy Prime Minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam [here](#).



FATWA COMPILATION VOLUME I



The **Fatwas of Singapore: Science, Medicine, and Health** was launched in 2017, which addressed issues and Fatwas related to medical science, medicines, and treatments.

Read the Fatwa Compilation Volume I [here](#).



REFERENCES

COMMUNITIES OF SUCCESS INITIATIVES

COMMUNITIES OF SUCCESS

The **Communities of Success** initiative by the Islamic Religious Council of Singapore (Muis) is a positive and forward-looking articulation of a vision of Islam and Muslim communities that are compatible with the modern world and thrive in and actively contribute to contemporary societies. This vision is especially critical for Muslim communities living in secular political contexts and diverse social environments, as the socio-religious issues and challenges encountered in such contexts are often without much precedence in Islamic history.



Read more about the Communities of Success initiative [here](#).

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON COMMUNITIES OF SUCCESS (ICCOS)

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON COMMUNITIES OF SUCCESS

9-10 September • Singapore

Contributing Citizens, Economic Institutions



As part of the Communities of Success initiative, the **International Conference on Communities of Success (ICCOS)** provides a platform for global Muslim minority communities to engage on and enrich positive narratives and characteristics of successful communities embodying good Character, Competency and Citizenry. It seeks to contribute to the shaping of progressive religious leadership and development of new and contextualised bodies of knowledge to guide Muslims in responding effectively to complex socio-religious issues and challenges, and highlights the need for collaboration among religious scholars, state officials and community leaders to develop successful communities.



Read the keynote speech by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong of the Republic of Singapore [here](#).

Read the lecture on The Muslim Community Experience Towards a Community of Success by Ustaz Dr. Nazirudin Mohd Nasir, Mufti of Singapore [here](#).



REFERENCES

RESEARCH PROGRAMME IN THE STUDY OF MUSLIM COMMUNITIES OF SUCCESS (RPCS)



As part of the Communities of Success initiative, the **Research Programme in the Study of Muslim Communities of Success (RPCS)** initiates the shaping of progressive religious leadership and development of new and contextualised bodies of knowledge by offering a platform for religious scholars and researchers to explore current and future issues impacting the socio-religious life of the Singapore Muslim community in three key focus areas – governance, society and science and technology – and develop new understanding, interpretations and applications of Islamic principles, values and traditions to contemporary issues and challenges.



Read more about the Research Programme in the Study of Muslim Communities of Success (RPCS) [here](#).

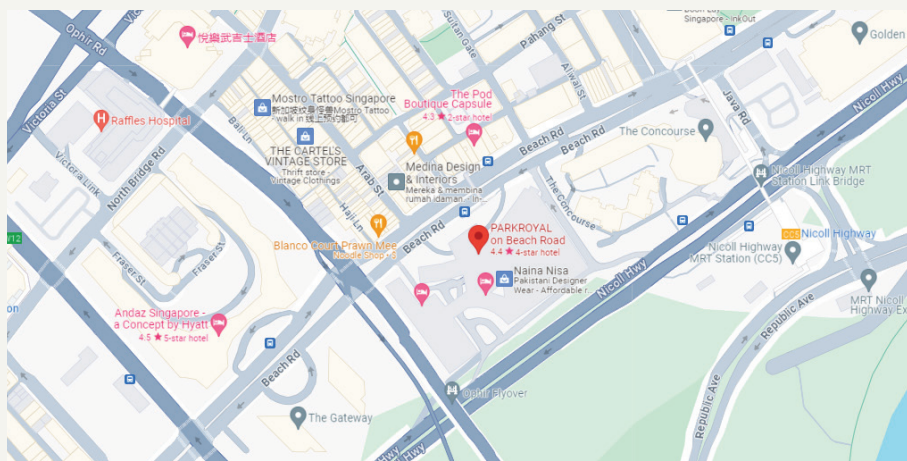
Read the RPCS Quarterly publications [here](#).

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW DO I GET TO THE CONFERENCE VENUE?

Fatwa in Contemporary Societies 2024 will be held at the PARKROYAL on Beach Road, Level 1 (Grand Ballroom), located at 7500 Beach Road, Singapore 199591.

- Nearby Train Stations: Bugis (East-West Line and Downtown Line), Nicoll Highway (Circle Line)
- Nearby Buses: 100, 107, 961, 980
- Parking facilities: Available at PARKROYAL on Beach Road Ballroom Carpark at prevailing car park fees



HOW DO I REGISTER FOR THE CONFERENCE?

Fatwa in Contemporary Societies 2024 is by invitation only. There are no registration fees imposed for the conference.

You will receive a registration link from our assigned events management partner. As seats are limited, we apologise for any inconvenience caused to unsuccessful applicants.

WHAT IS THE DRESS CODE FOR THE CONFERENCE?

The dress code for Fatwa in Contemporary Societies 2024 is Formal Wear (Jacket and Tie) for Day 1, and Business Casual for Day 2.

WHAT ARE THE MEAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CONFERENCE?

Halal meals will be served at the event (see Conference Programme). Participants can indicate other dietary requirements via the registration form.

HOW WILL I KNOW MY SEATING FOR THE CONFERENCE?

Participants will be informed of their allocated seating for the main ballroom and breakout rooms on the conference day.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WILL SPEAKER PRESENTATIONS BE AVAILABLE AFTER THE CONFERENCE?

Yes, snippets of the speeches and panel sessions will be made available online post-conference. Participants will be informed on how to access these via email after the conference.

CAN I ASK QUESTIONS TO THE SPEAKERS DURING THE CONFERENCE?

As a general guideline, participants will be able to ask questions during the panel Q&A segments. Specific guidelines will be communicated during the sessions as needed.

IS PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY ALLOWED AT THE CONFERENCE?

Yes, it is allowed if it is appropriate and does not infringe any individual's rights. The Chatham House Rule applies for the conference.

Photographs and videos of you may be taken during the event for the purpose of conducting publicity and developing promotional materials. The event is open for coverage, including media reporting.

To contact us, please email MUIS_EVENTS@muis.gov.sg.

ABOUT MUIS



Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura

(Islamic Religious Council of Singapore)

The Islamic Religious Council of Singapore (Muis) is a statutory board under the Ministry of Culture, Community & Youth (MCCY) and comes under the direct purview of the Minister-in-Charge of Muslim Affairs. Muis' main role is to advise the Singapore Government on all matters pertaining to Islamic affairs in Singapore and to manage all aspects of religious life of the Singapore Muslim Community.

Its aim is to establish a Muslim community of excellence that is religiously profound and socially progressive, and that thrives in a multi-religious society, secular state and globalised world. Its priority is to set the Islamic agenda, shape religious life and forge a Singapore Muslim Identity (SMI), which is progressive, inclusive, adaptive and contributive. It champions forward-looking discourse in Islam and promotes interfaith understanding through community engagement initiatives to enhance the social cohesion and well-being of the nation.

FATWA IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETIES 2024

CONFIDENT | RESILIENT | EMPOWERED

The Conference on Fatwa in Contemporary Societies 2024 aims to provide a platform for global religious scholars and experts to explore the importance of Fatwa institution in guiding Muslim communities to navigate new and complex socio-religious issues and challenges. With the theme “Empowering Muslim Communities of the Future through Fatwas”, the Conference seeks to address contemporary challenges including technology, medicine and financial estate and planning, and offer nuanced perspectives through well-researched and contextually relevant Fatwas to foster a society that embraces both religious values and social progress.

To contact us, please email MUIS_EVENTS@muis.gov.sg.