

Press Release

August 15, 2014

International Summer School on Islam & Science

August 22 to 31, 2014

How to reconcile Islamic faith and practice with contemporary scientific knowledge, i.e. with modernity?

This crucial question today confuses, disturbs and tears apart an entire generation of young Muslims throughout the world, often leading to fundamentalist beliefs and even anti-Western positions.

To address this issue, the Université Interdisciplinaire de Paris and the American University of Sharjah (United Arab Emirates) are organizing a summer school in Paris from Aug. 22 to 31 2014. This is part of the project "[Islam and Science, an educational approach](#)" which for the past 3 years has conducted workshops for Muslim students to accept and show them how modern science (theories and results) can and must be accepted without rejecting one's Islamic faith and identity.

This event will be the latest in a series of [seminars](#) that were conducted in Algeria, France, Jordan, Malaysia, Morocco, the United Arab Emirates, and the UK. This [summer school](#) will train 20-25 students (the best among those who attended the previous seminars) on the pedagogy of how to deal with difficult issues of Islam and modern science, including in particular the question of biological and human evolution (how to reject creationism without appearing as a non-believer), the theory of "the scientific content of the Qur'an", etc.

Over eight days, world-class experts (see list below) will give in-depth lectures, conduct discussions, plus visits to scientific and cultural institutions in Paris (Museum of Natural History and others), and supervise the students on small projects that they will develop during the summer school.

Lectures and Q & A's will be in English, without translation, but informal discussions and projects can be conducted in French or Arabic.

The Speakers

Ehab Abouheif (biologist, Canada), Denis Alexander (biologist, UK), Philip Clayton (philosopher and theologian, USA), Nidhal Guessoum (astrophysicist, Algeria/Emirates), Bruno Guiderdoni (astrophysicist, France), Usama Hasan (physicist and imam, UK), Odeh Al-Jayyousi (environmentalist, Jordan), Jamal Mimouni (physicist, Algeria), Jean Staune (philosopher, France).

The lectures will be held in:

Espace Le Moulin
48 rue du fer au Moulin, 75005 Paris

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