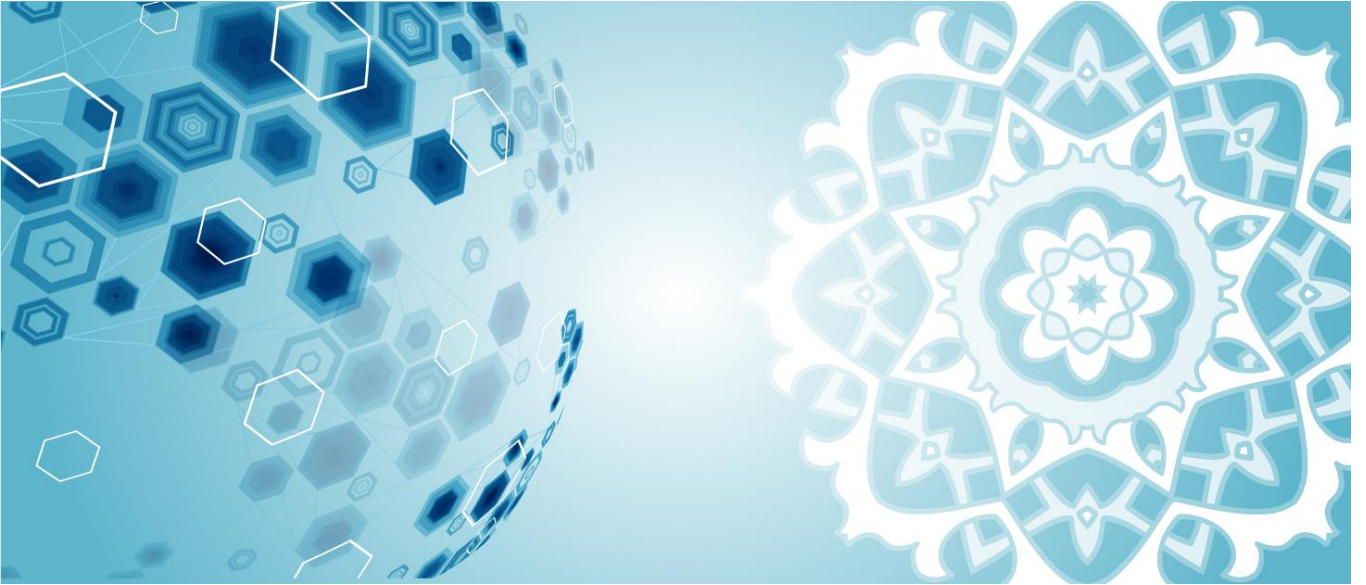


Islam and Science: An Educational Approach
International Workshop
Sharjah, UAE – April 18–21, 2014

Speakers' Short Bios



Co-organized by
Université Interdisciplinaire de Paris, France

Rana Dajani is an associate professor in molecular biology at the Hashemite University in Jordan. A Fulbright alumna, she does research in genome-wide studies of diabetes and cancer in ethnic populations in Jordan, as well as stem cells and bioinformatics. She is an expert on the topic of evolution and Islam. Dr. Dajani was the main organizer of the fourth scientific research conference on cancer in Jordan, a consultant on a number of committees, a driver in the network for women mentors and mentees, and the “We Love Reading” program for children, which received the Synergos award for Arab world social innovators and a membership in the Clinton Global Initiative 2010. She was chosen as one of the 20 most influential women in the Islamic world and ranked number 13 in the list of 100 most powerful women in the Arab world, 2014.



Nidhal Guessoum is Professor of Physics and Astronomy and Associate Dean at American University of Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates. He has published several books on science with direct or indirect relevance to Islam, dozens of scholarly papers in astrophysics, and numerous articles on science, education, and culture. He has also organized two conferences (and co-edited the proceedings) on the application of astronomy to Islamic problems and a number of workshops on science and Islam/religion around the world.



Bruno Abdelhaq Guiderdoni is the Director of the Observatory of Lyon, France. His main research is in galaxy formation and evolution, with over 100 papers published in the field. Dr. Guiderdoni is also a prominent Muslim figure in France, having presented a weekly public television program on Islam for many years, and has supervised several research programs on science and religion.



Ghada Jayyusi-Lehn is Assistant Professor of Arabic and Islamic Studies in the Department of Arabic and Translation Studies at American University of Sharjah. She earned a PhD in Arabic and Islamic Studies from the University of Toronto, Canada. She has taught Arabic language, literature and culture at the University of Toronto and York University, Toronto, Canada. Her areas of research and teaching interests are historiography and textual analysis concentrating on medieval Arabic religious, literary, philosophical, historical and geographical texts. This is in addition to translating and dealing with the problems of translating different types of medieval Arabic texts.



Ehsan Masood is a science policy journalist and broadcaster. He is the editor of *Research Professional* (which includes *Research Fortnight* and *Research Europe* magazines) and also teaches at Imperial College London. Masood's recent book, *Science and Islam: A History*, tells the story of how science developed during Islam's imperial period, from 800 to 1500; it was the official tie-in to a three-part documentary series on BBC Television presented by the award-winning Jim Al-Khalili, Professor of Physics at the University of Surrey. Most recently, he presented *Science: Right or Left?* a program exploring political bias in science. He worked for many years as a writer and editor on the journal *Nature*. His forthcoming book, *The Great Invention*, will tell the story of GDP and the advent of the age of big data.



Jamal Mimouni is a theoretical physicist with a PhD from the University of Pennsylvania, USA, and currently a Professor at the University of Constantine 1, Constantine, Algeria. He is also the Vice-President of the Arab Union for Astronomy and Space Sciences. He is well known in Arab astronomy, both at the academic level and the amateur and educational levels presiding over one of the best known astronomy associations in Africa and the Arab world. He has also done much work on the educational fronts, disseminating proper understanding of science and an appropriate relationship between Islam/religion and modern science.



Mohammad Rayyan is an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Shariah of Jordan University. He is the co-founder of Different Dimension Institution for training, development and consultation. He is interested in intercultural dialogue, mutual understanding, education reform and youth empowerment. Among his new projects are "*Insan: Towards Civilization Understanding of the Quran*", which aims to provide a critical methodology dealing with the religious texts, and two leading projects to establish the first conceptual-frame dictionary of Islamic terminology and to translate the great first jurisprudential encyclopedia.



Jean Staune: With degrees in Philosophy of Science, Mathematics, Paleontology, Political Science, Computer Science, and Management, he has taught at several institutions, including currently at the Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne. He is the founder and General Secretary of the Interdisciplinary University of Paris and has published several best-selling books on science, philosophy and religion in France and elsewhere.

