CALL FOR PAPERS
Two-Day Conference on
Islamic Perspectives on Management and Finance

Thursday 2nd – Friday 3rd July 2009

In light of the on-going financial crisis engulfing the global economic system, the world is running out of time in the search for a credible alternative which can withstand the financial tsunami that shook the very foundations of the contemporary capitalist economic system. Some argue that the Islamic approach to finance and management offers an alternative path to sustainable growth devoid of the excesses of unbridled capitalism. It is assumed that Islamic approaches might be better because they embed certain moral judgments into economic decision making. Contemporary Western thinkers like Slavoj Zizek believe that Islam not only “clearly has the strongest resistance to the process of global capitalism…there is also the possibility that it could open up a much more interesting radical perspective.”

The School of Management is proposing a two-day conference to explore Islamic perspectives on Management and Finance in theory and practice. Theoretical and empirical papers are invited from academics, researchers, policy-makers, students and practitioners on Islamic and/or comparative perspectives in areas including, but not limited to, the following:

- **Free market**: Does Islam approve of the free market within the current global capitalist system? How similar or different might an Islamic approach be from capitalism?
- **Islamic Banking**: What makes it distinct from conventional banking, in terms of implicit rules and formal regulations?
- **Public borrowing**: How can this be done within an Islamic framework? What is the position of Islam on taxation in order to make up for short fall in public revenue?
- **Responsible lending**: What constitute responsible lending in Islam? What are the rules guiding lending? What are the risks, rights and obligations of the parties involved?
- **Compliant mortgages**: How are mortgages run in a sharia-compliant manner? Are there any safeguards that distinguish them from conventional capitalist mortgages?
- **Ethical conduct in business**: Is there any distinction between legal requirements and ethical requirements? What are the criteria for ethical conduct? How can compliance be ensured?
• **Transparency and corporate governance:** Whose interest should corporate governance serve? Should the interest of all stakeholders be given equal consideration? What are the principles of corporate governance within an Islamic framework? How different is Islamic corporate governance from that of conventional capitalist organizations?

• **Inequality and economic globalization:** What solution does Islam offer towards addressing poverty, underdevelopment, and closing the gap between the north and the south? What is the position of Islam on economic imperialism and global wealth distribution?

• **Sweatshops:** What are the principles governing labour practices within an Islamic framework? What rights do workers have? What is the value of labour in relation to capital and other factors of production? How different is Islam from the angle of political economy from capitalism and other ideologies such as socialism?

• **Discrimination:** What is Islam’s position on gender, race, age, disability and sexuality discrimination in the workplace?

• **Child labour:** Does Islam have a policy on child labour? Does it offer any solution to the problem of child labour?

• **Corporate Social Responsibility:** What should be the status of the corporation? Does Islam approve of the concept of the ‘fictitious personality’? Whose interest should the corporation serve?

• **Business sustainability:** What perspectives does Islam offer on environmental destruction, the management of post-capitalist society, global warming, and so on? What is Islam’s position on copyright issues?

• **Principles of management:** What are the principles of management within an Islamic framework and are they different from those guiding capitalist organizations? Does it provide any alternatives on the organization of work for the contemporary organization?

Far from limiting intellectual freedom, we want to give presenters the chance to critically raise any questions, evaluate the strengths and shortcomings of every issue, principle, framework, etc. Therefore the above is only a guide to the questions that can be posed and addressed. We are willing to consider any other interesting submissions relating to comparative or Islamic finance and management. Please send abstracts/proposals of no more than 500 words MS word format to iu6@leicester.ac.uk latest 10th February, 2009. Accepted papers and key note speakers will be announced in February, 2009.

The registration fee for the conference is £100 for academics and practitioners and £50 for students, which covers conference materials, lunch and snacks for coffee breaks only, excluding accommodation. For more information and any other queries contact the conference coordinator:

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Tel: (44) 784 543 6664
Email: iu6@le.ac.uk
Registration Form

Two-Day Conference on “Islamic Perspectives on Management and Finance”

Thursday 2\textsuperscript{nd} – Friday 3\textsuperscript{rd} July 2009

Please complete the form below and send it to the following address by post, fax or email:
The Conference Coordinator , Islamic Perspectives on Management and Finance, School of Management , Ken Edwards Building, University of Leicester, University Road, Leicester, LE1 7RH, England. Tel: +44(o)78 4543 6664. Facsimile 44(o)116 252 3949. Email: iu6@le.ac.uk

Name: Mr/Mrs/Prof/Dr :………………………………………………………………………………………………………………
Designation: ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………
Institution/Company Name:……………………………………………………………………………………………………
Address:……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………
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Payment

The fee for the two-day conference is £100.00 for other participants and £50.00 for students (covering conference materials, lunch and tea/coffee but excluding accommodation). Links to hotels near the venue will be provided to those who want to book.

Those who want to pay using debit or credit card should email iu6@le.ac.uk for a credit card authorisation form. Payment by cheque and bank drafts should be made payable in GB Pounds to: “University of Leicester” and clearly written at the back: “Conference on Islamic perspectives on Management and Finance”. It should be posted to:

Accounts Department, Room 510, The School of Management, Ken Edwards Building, University of Leicester, University Road, Leicester, LE1 7RH, England, United Kingdom.