

EDITORIAL

This issue presents a compelling collection of articles covering Islamic spirituality, historiographical critique, textual integrity, ethical praxis, financial stability, and institutional governance.

The **first article**, *Islamic History through A Western Lens: A Critical Analysis of Key Introductory Works (2010-2025)*, analyses Western introductory textbooks and exposes tensions between authentic Islamic intellectual traditions and Western epistemologies. This critical lens underscores the need for cultural humility and diversified academic methodologies.

The **second article** *Advancements in Hadith Authentication Methods: A Systematic Literature Review* examines advancements in Hadith authentication, tracing a dynamic trajectory that merges traditional scholarship with ICT (Information and Communication Technology) driven innovations. By mapping existing methods, limitations, and emerging tools, the paper charts a path towards more rigorous preservation of prophetic traditions.

Grounded in lived experience, the **third article**, *Islamic Brotherhood and Business Social Responsibility (BSR) in Malaysia: A Qualitative Exploration of Islamic Faith-Based Business Practices*, shows how spiritual values—justice, fairness, compassion—translate into ethical entrepreneurship. We learn that Muslim business leaders view their ventures as expressions of faith-driven communal obligation and moral accountability.

The **fourth article**, *Intellectual Capital Efficiency and Its Contribution to Financial Stability in Islamic Banks: A Study of the Gulf Countries*, presents an empirical analysis of Intellectual Capital Efficiency (ICE) in Gulf Islamic banks. It reveals how investments in structural and relational capital significantly enhance financial stability and competitive advantage, supporting resource-based theory and emphasizing the critical role of intangible assets in institutional resilience.

Finally, the **fifth article**, *Model of Productive Waqf Policy Governance for Sustainable Economic Development: A Pestel Analysis Approach*, proposes a PESTEL (Political, Economic, Social, Technology, Environment, and Law) based framework in Indonesia and Malaysia. By systematically addressing political, economic, legal, social,

technological, and environmental factors, it positions *waqf* institutions as powerful drivers of sustainable Islamic socio-economic development.

Together, these contributions trace a coherent intellectual pathway—from inner spiritual formation, through scholarly rigor and ethical practice, to institutional innovation and economic execution. They showcase how contemporary Islamic scholarship thrives at the intersection of tradition and innovation, faith and function.

We hope readers will benefit from this rich and diverse collection.

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Editor