

## The 20<sup>th</sup> International Research Festival of Sheikh Tousi

Entitled:

# Convergence and Divergence in the Islamic World

Topic Areas for Submission:

### I. Concepts and Theories

- The concept of convergence, coexistence, solidarity, unity, coalition, integration, proximity, etc.
- Divergence, division, difference, etc.
- Theories of convergence and their application to the Islamic world
- Theory of *da'wah*, the concept of Ummah, etc.
- The principles of convergence of the Islamic world (epistemic, legal and jurisprudential principles)
- Strategic needs for realization of unity and convergence in the Islamic World
- Pathology of scientific activities and research in the field of unity in the Islamic world

### II. Capacities and Possibilities of convergence in the Islamic World

- **Historical Capacities**
- **Social-cultural Capacities**
  - o The role of *fiqh* (jurisprudence) in the convergence of the Islamic world
  - o The issue of Palestine and Quds
  - o The impact of Hajj on the convergence of the Islamic world
  - o Gnosticism and Sufism
  - o Ahlulbayt (AS) (love of Ahlulbayt, scientific authority of Ahlulbayt, etc.)
  - o The role of regional organizations and institutions
  - o Social movements
  - o The role and status of the Islamic seminaries of Qom, Najaf and al-Azhar
  - o One Islamic Nation Theory
  - o Islamic Civilization
  - o The role of religious leaders
  - o The role of Al-Mustafa International University in paving ground for convergence of the Islamic world
  - o Other
- **Political Capacities**
  - o Political movements
  - o The role of geopolitical factors
  - o Common enemy
  - o Anti-arrogance campaign
  - o External threats
  - o Other
- **Economic Capacities**
  - o The role of economic cooperation and common interests
  - o Other

### III. The Bedrocks and Internal Factors of Divergence of the Islamic World

- **Historical Backgrounds (middle and contemporary periods)**
- **Socio-cultural Factors and Backgrounds**

- Erroneous reading of religion
  - *Takfiri* movements, groups and personalities
  - Ethnic racial disputes
  - Tribalism, identity crisis
  - Scientific backwardness, superstitions
  - Religious extremism (extremist nationalism)
- **Political backgrounds and factors**
    - The affiliation of political rulers
    - Domination
    - Nationalist movements
    - Intruders
    - Geopolitical factors
    - Other
  - **Economic background and factors**
    - Unfair distribution of wealth
    - Underdevelopment
    - Economic dependence
    - Unhealthy economic competition (energy, water, environment, etc.)
    - Other
  - **English Shi'ism and American Sunnism**
  - **Other**

#### **IV. External Factors of the Divergence of the Islamic World**

##### **Social – cultural**

- Cultural assault
- Religious sect-making or schism
- Orientalism
- Cultural – scientific institutions
- Mass media

##### **Political**

- The role of imperial powers (especially the US, UK and Zionist regime)
- The role of 'International Zionism'
- Infiltration
- Conflicts of the international powers

##### **Economic**

- Colonialism
- Multi-national companies
- Arms industry
- Other

#### **V. The Harbingers of Convergence and Unity in the Islamic World:**

Imam Khomeini (ra), Ayatollah Khamenei, Ayatollah Sistani, Ayatollah Boroujardi, Imam Musa Sadr, Muhammad Hussein Fadlallah, Mawdoodi, Iqbal Lahori, Seyyed Jamal, Rashid Reza, Sa'id Nursi, Qaradawi, Rachid al-Ghannouchi, Mahathir Mohammad, Najmaddin Erbakan, Alija Izetbegović, Sheikh Shaltot, etc.

#### **VI. Strategies and approaches for convergence in the Islamic world**

## **VII. The Consequences of Convergence and Divergence in the Islamic World**

Secretariat of the the 20th International Research Festival of Sheikh Tousi is ready to receive scientific papers of professors, researchers and scholars of Al-Mustafa University, all elite professors and researchers of domestic and foreign-based seminaries, as well as university professors and researchers.

Deadline for Submission of articles: **November 21, 2017**

Instructions for submitting a paper for the 20th International Research Festival of Sheikh Tousi entitled (Convergence and Divergence in the Islamic World):

1. Books authored or translated and researched, and expository works, encyclopedia, published articles, papers presented at scientific conferences and festivals, theses and final dissertations defended by the end of 1395 (March 21 2017) on Islamic sciences and humanities topics will be accepted.

2. This call is dedicated to researchers of Al-Mustafa University (faculty members and associate professors of Al-Mustafa University, Iranian and non-Iranian students and scholars of Al-Mustafa University and the families of non-Iranian students of Al-Mustafa University.

3. Only works published in the year 1395 (Persian solar calendar) 1437 (lunar calendar) and 2016 AD. would be accepted by the secretariat of Sheikh Tousi Research Festival.

Deadline for Submission of works: October 21, 2017

### **Note:**

1. Submitted works other than theses, dissertations and final researches will not be returned.
2. For further information about participating in both sections of the Call for Papers, the guidebook available at the Festival's website should be read thoroughly.
3. Works and articles submitted to the the secretariat of the Festival will not be accepted unless the submission form available on the Festival's website is filled out.

### **Address:**

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