



**The Al Akhawayn University  
School of Business Administration**

In cooperation with

**EABIS – The Academy of Business in Society**

and

**YALE University**

supported by

**EFMD**

**Call for Contributions:**

(To be followed by a Call for Papers for a Special Issue of the *Journal of Management Development*)

**PRACTICAL WISDOM FOR MANAGEMENT FROM  
THE ISLAMIC TRADITION**

To be held at

**Al Akhawayn University, Ifrane, Morocco  
On July 9-10<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

Timur Kuran's (Duke University) recent book "How Islamic Law held back the Middle East" reignited a longstanding debate on whether religions are actually impeding progress and development. The Economist commented: "In the year 1000 the Middle East's share of the world's GDP was larger than Europe's. By 1700 the Middle East's share had fallen to 2% and Europe's had risen to 22%. The standard explanations for this decline are unsatisfactory. One is that the spirit of Islam is hostile to commerce. But if anything, Islamic scripture is more pro-business than Christian texts. Muhammad was a merchant and the Quran is full of praise for commerce. A second explanation is that Islam bans usury, but so do the Torah and the Christian Bible. (The Economist January 29<sup>th</sup> 2011, page 60)

The experience of the West is that with the advance of industrialisation, urbanisation and modern institutions, secularisation has driven religion out of the public domain. By consequence, religious orthodoxy has become perceived as incompatible with modernity. But, at the same time, the West is currently experiencing its own crisis of meaning, an erosion of norms and values and an ailing socio-economic system with no moral compass.

Can the practical wisdom derived from the religious traditions, without the less desirable characteristics such as intolerance and dogmatism that can impede the development of open societies and free economies, help locate new moral framings for our economies and societies?

Does modernity imply that we have to accept estrangement between religion and progress? Or is it rather the case that religions may contribute to shape the moral frame of capitalism and its institutions? In the traditions called *hadith* (sayings of the Prophet and his companions), the Prophet is reported to have said, "The truthful and trusty merchant is associated with the prophets, the upright, and the martyrs."

EABIS and YALE University are organizing a series of conferences on practical wisdom for management from the world's spiritual and philosophical traditions, addressing the central question: *How can we bring back the value of wisdom in management and management education?* The conferences are, on each occasion, followed by a call for papers, a special issue of *The Journal of Management Development* and a book series. They are designed to bring together philosophers, theologians, management scholars and business leaders to engage in reflection and dialogue and to find new grounding.

The first conference took place in September 2009 on the Christian tradition, organised by the Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt, Germany and St. Thomas University of Minneapolis, USA. Publication of 16 papers from academics and practitioners follow in August 2010 with a special issue of the *Journal of Management Development*. Editors are Michael Naughton, André Habisch and Gilbert Lenssen. (For an overview of papers see [www.eabis.org](http://www.eabis.org)). A conference on Chinese traditions (Confucianism, Taoism and Buddhism) followed in June 2010, with a journal issue forthcoming in summer 2011.

In 2011 and 2012 conferences on the Buddhist, Chinese, Hindu, Islamic (with The Al Akhawayn University School of Business Administration), Jewish, Jain and Shinto traditions will be staged around the world, including a comparative conference at Yale University in 2013.

## GUIDELINES FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

We are calling for contributions (*in English*) to this 2011 conference based on the following timetable:

**May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011:** a statement of your proposal to present a paper (with the subject, in a maximum of 250 words). Confirmation of acceptance will be sent within 15 days. You can submit your abstract by email to Antonio Scarafino, EABIS Academic Coordinator (email: [antonio.scarafino@eabis.org](mailto:antonio.scarafino@eabis.org)).

**May 16<sup>th</sup>:** notification of acceptance to authors.

**June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011:** delivery of the full presentation you want to give during the conference and possibly the draft of your paper (4000 words net).

A full final paper will be expected by 30 November.

We welcome contributions from all strands of Islamic thought and we specially encourage authors rooted in Islamic thought from different national business environments.

**Contributions should explore the nature and contemporary relevance of the Islamic wisdom traditions for management and management education.** Authors are invited to submit original, unpublished research papers with the following indicative topics, (without limitation):

- The Role of Faith-based Wisdom in Business Decision Making
- The Impact of Religion on Business Decision Making
- Islamic Business Ethics
- Islamic Business Management Practices
- Leadership in Islam
- Islamic Economics
- Islamic Marketing Practices
- Islamic Investment Practices
- Shari'a compliant Banking, Finance and Accounting
- Islamic Mortgage and Insurance
- Trade Practices
- Labour Relations
- The Concept of Man and Property in Islam
- Contracts and Islamic law
- Islamic Philanthropic Tradition

Please note, the conference will be only partially focused on Islamic Finance therefore only a few contributors addressing the particular subject will be invited to present at the Ifrance conference in July

### **Editors:**

Prof. Dr. Gilbert Lensen (EABIS), Prof. Wafa ElGarah (Al Akhawayn University School of Business Administration), Prof. Dr. Andre Habisch (EABIS and Katholische Universität Eichstätt-Ingolstadt, Prof. Theodore Roosevelt Malloch (Yale University), Dr Ahmed Baijo (Al Akhawayn University School of Business Administration), Dr. Connell Monette (Al Akhawayn University School of Business Administration) and Dr. Lahrech Mounaim (Al Akhawayn University School of Business Administration).

For more background context please download the [rationale](#).