

**Editorial:**

**MUSLIM SCHOLARS TOWARDS WESTERN  
INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH**

It could be spoken up that '*ulamā*' of classical and medieval ages carried out interdisciplinary approaches in dealing with difficulties they had encountered in understanding Islamic texts or teachings. This could be indicated from a number of the '*ulamā*' who possessed not only one expertise but more, such as an Arabic linguist who was also expert both in Islamic jurisprudence, quranic exegesis and Muhammadan tradition. Therefore, it was common sense that when they were interpreting quranic verses they not only exercised other quranic verses or Muhammadan tradition but also the Arabic linguistic or Islamic jurisprudence to catch the meaning of the verses they had been interpreting.

However, in the recent era have occurred a lot of facts showing that Muslim scholars have exercised approaches of Western scholars. This is not a fault of them but their progressiveness and creativity to reach on what the '*ulamā*' did not produce yet. Nevertheless, rarely would the Muslim scholars like to back their Islamic disciplines with braches of knowledge found by Western scholars significantly beneficial for the development of Islamic knowledge. Only those who have realized that to deal with the Western approaches is a necessity would like to do it.

The following should be taken into account. To deal with Western approaches will be supporting capitals for the development of Islamic knowledge. To deal with the approaches means to generally continue the history of knowledge development from classical, medieval to modern age. Thus, Muslim scholars are not handicapped with Western

approaches. Subsequently, empirical and scientific research would be, through the approaches, more greatly possible to conduct. This is in line with the characteristics of Western approaches. Lastly, Western approaches would be able to be exercised to put Islamic texts or teachings closer to their followers. This is due to the fact that the approaches frequently become rational and applicable-bridging ways out for Muslim scholars when they find out of ideas in understanding the Islamic texts or teachings.

In order to get closer to the application of Western-interdisciplinary approaches, the articles of this present volume can be real examples of their necessity. The themes of the articles are in connection to the existence of Muslim minority in Miami, Florida before policies of ruling government after the event of September 11, *Naqshbandy* sufi order in the middle of Modernity in Western Europe, Islamic law and religious Alternative Dispute Resolution, Islamic knowledge classification in the context of library system, Islamic mysticism Expressed through Indonesian poetry system, Arabic that should exercise a proper method for foreigner, the methods for investigating strange Muhammadan tradition, *fiqh* that should be meet the demand of a given society, and the method of *ḥisāb and ru'ya* conducted by two popular Muslim organizations in Indonesia, NU and Muhammadiyah. Altogether, those themes show the tendency of the necessity. (editor/Sujadi)