

# Muslim Chaplaincy: Practice, Research and Recognition Provisional programme

Fribourg, Switzerland, 24 – 26 June 2025

University of Fribourg, Bd. de Pérolles 90, 1700 Fribourg, Switzerland

## Tuesday 24 June

From 12.00

**Registration**

13.30 – 14.00

**Welcome and Introduction (Room A140)**

Hansjörg Schmid (SZIG/CSIS – University of Fribourg) together with  
Abduselam Halilovic (QuAMS, Muslim Chaplaincy Organisation, Zürich)  
Sophie Gilliat-Ray (Cardiff University)

14.00 – 14.45

**Keynote 1: Shepherding the Islamic Secular: Hadith-Based  
Principles for Evaluating Muslim Chaplains**

Bilal Ansari (Hartford International University, USA)  
Chair: Sophie Gilliat-Ray

14.45 – 15.30

**Keynote 2: The Question of ‘wasaa’it’ (intermediaries): Ibn Abbad  
Al-Rundi, shukr (gratitude) and Muslim Patients during Times of  
crisis. An Empirical Study**

Naveed Baig (Oslo University, Norway)  
Chair: Hansjörg Schmid

15.30 – 16.00

Break/refreshments

16.00 – 17.30

**Panel 1: Training and Competencies of Muslim Chaplains  
(Room B130)**

*The training of Imams at German universities: Challenges and  
Perspectives*

Aslıgül Aysel (University of Innsbruck, Austria)

*Clinical pastoral education in Muslim chaplaincy education and practice*

Daniel Nuzum (University College Cork, Ireland)

Sabia Rehman (Sheffield Teaching Hospitals)

Aziz Patel (Greater Manchester mental health hospitals NHS)

*First Steps into Chaplaincy – Themes Arising from Chaplaincy Students’  
Placement Experiences*

Ruqaiyah Hibell (Markfield Institute of Higher Education, UK)

Chair: Mansur Ali

**Panel 2: Approaches to Muslim Chaplaincy (Room C130)**

*Talking with children about death: Muslim Chaplaincy in Educational  
Settings from the Perspective of Islamic Theology and Education*

Gülbahar Erdem (Paderborn University, Germany)

*An Ethnographic Study to Explore Barriers and Facilitators for Terminally ill Pakistani Muslims to access Palliative Care in England through the Lens of Chaplaincy*  
Maysoon Shafiq (Sheffield Hallam University, UK)

*Navigating the Dialectics of Spirituality and Care: Islamic Spiritual Care in Muslim-Majority and Minority Contexts*  
Khairil Husaini Bin Jamil (International Islamic University, Malaysia)

Chair: Nida Errahmen Ajmi

**Panel 3: Muslim Chaplaincy Organisations and Profiles (Room D130)**

*Exploring the Islamic Concept of the Nafs and Its Integration into the Practice of Muslim Pastoral Care in the UK*  
Safraa Razeek (Markfield Institute of Higher Education, UK)

*Structure for Shura & Suhba: The Association of Muslim Chaplains and Its Contributions to Islamic Chaplaincy in North America*  
Jaye Starr (University of Michigan Hospital, USA)

*Trust and Professionalism. The Case of Muslim Healthcare Chaplaincy*  
Hansjörg Schmid (SZIG/CSIS – University of Fribourg)

Chair: Dilek Ucak Ekinci

17.45 – 18.30

**Keynote 3: Muslim chaplaincies in France, between Appropriation and Instrumentalization by Public Authorities (Room A140)**

Claire de Galember (Ecole normale supérieure Paris-Saclay – CNRS, France)

Chair: Mallory Schneuwly Purdie

**Wednesday 25 June**

9.00 – 9.45

**Keynote 4: Theological Dimensions in Muslim Chaplaincy – An Attempt at Systematization (Room A140)**

Esma Isis-Arnautovic (SZIG/CSIS – University of Fribourg, Switzerland)

Chair: Mansur Ali

9.45 – 10.30

**Keynote 5: Aging, Spirituality, and A Guide to Islamic Spiritual Care with Elderly**

Nazila Isgandarova (Toronto University, Canada)

Chair: Hansjörg Schmid

10.30 – 11.00

Break/refreshments

11.00 – 12.15

**Parallel Workshops 1**

*Working with case reports: Organ donation after sudden infant death – challenges and support for the family (Room A140)*

Dilek Uçak-Ekinci (SZIG/CSIS – University of Fribourg, Switzerland)

*Integrating Islamic Perspectives in Advance Care Planning: A Chaplain's Approach to Compassionate Care (Room B130)*  
Sakinah Alhabshi (St. Luke's Healthcare and Respect Graduate School, USA)  
Samsiah Abdul-Majid (Westchester Medical Center/Association of Muslim Chaplains, USA)

*A Practical Approach for Muslim Chaplains (Room C130)*  
Mahshid Turner (Durham University, UK)

*Clinical Pastoral Education as a Methodology in Muslim Chaplaincy Education (Room D130)*  
Daniel Nuzum (University College Cork, Ireland)  
Sabia Rehman (Sheffield Teaching Hospitals)  
Aziz Patel (Greater Manchester mental health hospitals NHS)  
Mark Newitt (Sheffield Teaching Hospitals and St. Luke's Hospice)

12.15 – 13.30 Lunch (Buffet for all participants)

13.30 – 14.15 **Keynote 6: Breaking Barriers: Muslim Women in Chaplaincy and Pastoral Leadership (Room A140)**  
Sophie Gilliat-Ray (Cardiff University, UK)  
Ameira Bahadur-Kutkut (Cardiff Metropolitan University, UK)  
Chair: Amir Dziri

14.30 – 16.00 **Panel 4: Theological Issues in Healthcare Chaplaincy (Room B130)**

*He's a Muslim, a Chaplain, and an American: Is he really an American Muslim chaplain?*  
Harvey Stark (California State University, USA)

*Bodies of text: British Muslim hospital chaplains negotiating text and context to provide organ transplantation care*  
Mansur Ali (Cardiff University, UK)

*Associations between religious and social characteristics and the importance of Muslim chaplain presence at the end of life: Insights from a national survey of American Muslims*  
Samsiah Abdul-Majid (Westchester Medical Center/Association of Muslim Chaplains, USA)

Chair: Amir Dziri

**Panel 5: Racism and Gender Issues in Muslim Chaplaincy (Room C130)**

*Muslim Chaplaincies in French Public Institutions: An Opportunity for Women?*  
Céline Béraud (EHESS, Paris, France)

*Still Challenging: Muslim Women in Chaplaincy in Turkey*  
Durali Karacan (Eskisehir Osmangazi University, Turkey)

*Social Suffering and Muslim Chaplaincy: Navigating Racism and Institutional Barriers*  
Beyhan Bozkurt (Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany)

Chair: Mallory Schneuwly Purdie

**Panel 6: Interfaith and Faith-Specific Orientations in Muslim Chaplaincy (Room D130)**

*Exploring the Flexibilities of Islamic Jurisprudence in the Practice of Muslim Prison Chaplains*

Ahtsham Ali (HM Prison and Probation Service - UK)

*Celebrating Faith-Specific Rituals in the Swiss Army: A Call for Balance*

Matthias Inniger (Chief Chaplain, Joint Operation Commands Swiss Army)

*Reconciliation: Does It Work with Muslim Prison Chaplaincy in Germany?*

Ahmed Arfaoui (Dresden Prison, Germany)

Chair: Baptiste Brodard

16.00 – 16.30

Break/refreshments

16.30 – 17.15

**Keynote 7: Chaplaincy and chaplaincy studies as the context for the development and contribution of Muslim Chaplaincy (Room A140)**

Andrew Todd (Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge, UK)

Chair: Sophie Gilliat Ray

17.15 – 18.30

**Poster session (Hall)**

*In Search of a Muslim Chaplaincy in Japan: A Study Group Project*

Kenta Kasai and Sachiko Hosoya (Sophia University and International University of Health and Welfare – Japan)

*Al-Mujadilah: Center & Mosque for Women*

Iman A. Ismail (Bayan Islamic Graduate School, USA)

*Experiences, good practice and initiatives for people affected through imprisonment*

Ferzana Dakri (The Straight Path Project Leicester, UK)

*West Midlands Police Chaplaincy: Research findings and Strategic Vision*

Khadija Sulaiman (West Midlands Police, UK)

*Beyond the Algorithm: Ethical Considerations of AI in Muslim Chaplaincy*

Sadaf Jamal (University of Toronto, Canada)

*Between Faith and Healing: The Role of Spiritual and Religious Development in Muslim Chaplaincy*

Ayishah J. Świecińska (University of Birmingham, UK)

*Sustaining Faith and Rehabilitation: FITRAH's In-Service Program for Muslim Inmates in Singapore*

Ustaz Syahrin Mohamad Salleh FITRAH - Family and Inmates ThRoughcare Assistance Haven, Singapore)

*Using AI to Support Bereaved Muslim Parents*

Henieh Suleman (University Hospitals Birmingham, UK)

Chair: Mallory Schneuwly Purdie

19.00 Dinner (for all speakers)

## Thursday 26 June

9.00 – 9.45 **Keynote 8: Standards and Accountability for Muslim Chaplains (Room A140)**

Ingrid Mattson (Huron University, London, Canada)  
Chair: Dilek Ucak-Ekinci

10.00 – 11.15 **Parallel Workshops 2**

*Theoretical and theological models supporting Muslim chaplaincy: practitioner perspectives and experiences' (Room A140)*

Hanan Basher (Cardiff University, UK) with Mansur Ali and Sophie Gilliat-Ray (Cardiff University, UK)

*Islam & Human Organ Transplant: A Scoping Literature Review (Room B130)*

Ruqiaya N. Akhtar (Huston Methodist Hospital, USA)  
Beth Muehlhausen (Huston Methodist Hospital, USA)

*The Use of the STIV/SDAT Model for Providing Spiritual Care to Muslim Patients (Room C130)*

Driss Khechaf (UCLouvain, Belgium)

11.15 – 11.45 Break

11.45 – 13.00 **Final Roundtable: taking the field forward, research and practitioner priorities (Room A140)**

All the keynote speakers

14.30 **End of the conference – Optional cultural programme**

## Practical Information

**Accommodation:** As the conference falls in the summer season, it is strongly recommended that you book your accommodation as early as possible. General information on hotels in Fribourg can be found on <https://fribourg.ch/en/fribourg/hotels/?r=3917>

Group booking have been made in two different hotels for the participants:

Hotel Alpha, rue du Simplon 13, 1700 Fribourg ([Alpha Hotel](#))

The hotel is conveniently located in the vicinity of the conference.

Keynotes speakers have been booked in this hotel.

Conférence participants should book directly at the hotel using the reference code : CSIS 2025.

Deadline: 28.02.2025.

Price with breakfast: 180.- CHF (+ 3.- CHF tax).

Hotel Ibis, Route du Lac 19, 1763 Granges-Paccot ([Hôtel Ibis Fribourg | Fribourg](#)). Conference participants should book directly at the hotel by email (H9925@accor.com) using the reference code (BLOCK 711516) and specifying the type of room needed:

Price with breakfast

Single room : CHF 117.00.- (+ 3.- CHF tax).

Double room : CHF 129.00.- (+ 3.- CHF tax).

**Call for Posters:** The call for posters remains open as there is still some space left in our poster exhibition. Please submit a 1500 to 2000 characters abstracts for your poster proposal. The proposal should contain the general aim of your contribution, the discipline and the methodology, as well as a biographical note (max. 250 characters). Submission email address: szig@unifr.ch

**Food:** The conference fee includes coffee and tea in all breaks as well as lunch on 25/6 (buffet with vegetarian food and fish). There is a cafeteria in the conference building and a canteen right next to it. On the Boulevard de Pérolles there are also plenty of take-aways.

**Conference dinner:** All persons listed in the programme are invited to attend the conference dinner (26/6, 19h). Due to limited space in this restaurant, other participants are requested to make independent arrangements to go to other restaurants.

**Transport:** Fribourg can easily be reached by train from the three international airports (Zurich, Geneva, Basel). The journey takes around 1h30. Travel by international trains is encouraged within Europe. Buses to the conference location from Fribourg train station are nb. 1 (Direction Marly-Gérine), nb. 3 (Direction Charmettes), nb. 9 (Direction Plateau de Pérolles) to bus stop Charmettes. The trip from the station takes about 15 min on foot. Participants who stay at a hotel in the city of Fribourg will receive a free city centre travel card (<https://fribourg.ch/en/fribourg/trains-touristic-transport/fribourgfreiburg-ticket/>). For further information about regional public transport see <https://www.sbb.ch/en/tickets-offers/travelcards/point-to-point-regional-travelcard/fare-networks/fribourg-frimobil-fare-network.html>

**Display table:** There is a table near the entrance of the main conference auditorium where you can display material related to the topic of the conference (books, brochures, leaflets). You may also exhibit an inspection copy of any book in the field. The table is not supervised.

**Prayer room:** A multi-faith prayer room is available on the conference site. For information about mosques see <https://fids.ch/fr/swissmosque/>.

**Cultural programme:** All participants are invited to participate in the optional cultural programme (26/12, 14h30-17h30). This includes a one-hour walk through Fribourg's medieval old city including a visit of the cathedral and a stop at a local café. For further information about Fribourg see: <https://fribourg.ch/en/fribourg/let-yourself-be-charmed-by-the-beauty-of-the-old-town-of-fribourg/>

**With the support of:**

University of Fribourg: Faculty of Humanities and Faculty of Theology  
The Swiss National Science Foundation

