



University of
South Australia

Centre for Islamic
Thought & Education

مركز الفكر والتعليم الاسلامي



ARTIST:
Rikurani

Acknowledgement of Country

Unisa respects the Kaurna, Boandik and Bamgala peoples' spiritual relationship with their country. We also acknowledge the diversity of Aboriginal peoples, past and present.

Find out more about the University's commitment to reconciliation at unisa.edu.au/RAP

WELCOME

The University of South Australia is dedicated to educating global citizens and conducting research that has real impact on our communities. We were proud to launch the Centre for Islamic Thought and Education (CITE) in 2016 and it has since played a key role in helping deliver one of our key promises, that of research that transforms societies.

With that focus CITE has become a national and global hub for Islamic thought; it now has key international partners in Southeast Asia and the Middle East, it has established Australia's first online and accredited **teacher training postgraduate programs** for educators working with Muslim learners, and has made a valuable social impact through its community engagement programs.

Not only is CITE fulfilling its mission to conduct research and teaching that positively impacts on the community, it is helping empower our community by promoting better understanding between people.

That's using education for its best purpose.

Professor David Lloyd
Vice Chancellor and President

Our communities are exposed to an abundance of misinformation regarding the Islamic faith. This is why UniSA's Centre for Islamic Thought and Education research centre has a philosophy – to be at the epicentre for factual, empirically obtained information that is dispersed to the wider population.

This centre's focus aligns with the University's vision for research that is inspired by challenges and opportunities, partnered with end-users and communities and underpinned by excellence.

The centre's research addresses important issues currently facing the Muslim community, from living harmoniously, interconnected with the West to blanket societal issues such as domestic violence and the empowerment of women to combat this serious problem.

The UniSA Research Themes create opportunities for interdisciplinary research activity at UniSA in particular areas of global, societal and local need. They enhance and facilitate broad capacity and creativity across the enterprise, and foster a culture of impact and relevance to industry and the community. This research undertaken by CITE has great relevance to the Transforming Societies theme, where researchers examine the complex inter-relationships between social, environmental, cultural and political changes, to revolutionise sustainable, citizen-led social innovation. I foresee the generation of many interdisciplinary collaborations from CITE, enabling us to successfully meet the needs of our partners, end-users and the community.

Professor Tanya Monro
Deputy Vice Chancellor: Research and Innovation

• The Centre for Islamic Thought and Education makes an important contribution to the University's research and teaching agendas and we are proud to host the Centre as part of our School of Education. The strong focus on fostering knowledge, dialogue and community engagement, together with internationally recognised expertise in Islamic education, ethics, leadership and management, finance, psychology and sociology means the relevance of the Centre's work only continues to grow. We look forward to continuing to broaden these connections with community and to providing a unique perspective into Islamic Thought and Education for our students and partners.

Professor Joanne Cys
Pro Vice Chancellor: Education, Arts and Social Sciences



FROM THE DIRECTOR

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CITE aims to become a leading hub for Islamic thought and education.

I believe that academic research and teaching must have positive social impact. It should be able to help transform societies positively. This is at the heart of our Centre.

Since its establishment in August 2016, CITE made significant contributions in research, teaching and engagement and aims to become a leading hub for Islamic thought and education.

CITE will continue to examine and evaluate issues in ways that can benefit societies, challenge current thinking and guide and inform decision making to approach transformation for the benefit of all.

Professor Mohamad Abdalla

Director, Centre for Islamic Thought and Education



INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Centre for Islamic Thought and Education (CITE).

Our Centre is interdisciplinary and is actively involved in research, teaching and engagement with communities and industry partners.

Our research deals with a number of interdisciplinary areas including education (with a focus on education in the Islamic tradition and Islamic schools), finance (Islamic finance and financial literacy), domestic and family violence (in faith and culturally and linguistically diverse communities), leadership (processes and governance), history of Islamic civilisation (and its interconnectedness with other civilisations), Islam in Australia and more.

The Centre has a strong cohort of PhD candidates researching in various areas.

Our teaching programs are relevant and address the needs of students and industry partners alike. We offer undergraduate and postgraduate programs that meet students' expectations.

Our engagement is local, national and global. We have strong working relationships with schools, universities, NGOs and government departments in Australia and abroad. CITE's staff are academic experts and importantly have been working with communities for decades. We do not study communities as a subject of inquiry inscribed by 'otherness' but as equal partners. Our team believes that using their knowledge and skills to serve communities is of the highest virtue.



OUR CENTRE'S VISION

CITE aims to be the leading knowledge hub for Islamic thought and education. CITE will achieve this in ways that benefit communities nationally and globally, building on Islam's long tradition of scholarship and awareness of the modern context.

Research

Our research focuses on a host of interdisciplinary areas including:

- Interconnectedness of Islam and other civilisations
- Education with a focus on Islamic schools renewal (pedagogy, Islamic studies, Arabic studies, leadership and governance, social justice and whole-of-school reviews)
- Management and leadership (with a focus on Islamic organisation using contemporary and Islamic traditions)
- Family relationships, domestic and family violence (with a focus on faith and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities)
- Islam in Australia (history, identity, challenges and contributions)
- Islamic banking and finance (with a focus on financial literacy).

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CITE is globally recognised for its highly skilled trans-disciplinary staff who are willing to work to bridge cultures, faiths and world views.

PROFESSOR STEPHEN DOBSON,
DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF EDUCATION,
VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

Graduate and postgraduate programs

CITE has developed a cohort of exciting programs including:

(1) Minor in Islamic Studies

(eligible to all undergraduate students)

(2) Graduate Certificate in Education (Islamic Education)

(for any educator working with Muslim learners in state, private or Islamic schools).

(3) Graduate Diploma in Education (Islamic Education)

(for any educator working with Muslim learners in state, private or Islamic schools).

(4) Master of Teaching (Secondary) Islamic pedagogy

specialisation (minor) (an excellent pathway to teacher registration).

Local, national and global engagement

Since its establishment, CITE has forged strategic relations with local, national and global organisations, institutions and peoples.

Nationally, CITE leads an Islamic schools' renewal project (in collaboration with key national stakeholders); organises annual Islamic Schooling Conference (in partnership with Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic University Jakarta, the Islamic Schools Association of Australia (ISAA), and Independent Schools Victoria), and is leading the National Australia Islamic Studies Curriculum.

Internationally, CITE has significant links and partnerships with South East Asia (Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei), and the Middle East (Qatar, UAE, and Oman). CITE's engagements have led to the signing of Memorandum of Understandings with Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic University Jakarta (UIN), Qatar University, International Islamic University of Malaysia, and University of Malaya.

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CITE has taken Islamic Schooling in Australia to the next level of high quality and engaging professional learning and collaboration. It has allowed educators, policy makers and leaders connect deeply with relevant Muslim education in Australia, in turn enhancing the quality of teaching and learning.

MRS AYNUR SIMSIREL, PRINCIPAL ADVISOR,
INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS VICTORIA



OUR PEOPLE

CITE's researchers specialise in Islamic civilisation, psychology, ethics, leadership, management, finance and education, and have extensive academic experience in Islamic studies. Importantly is also our researchers' substantial understanding of the needs and aspirations of the Australian Muslim communities. Our staff have actively participated in the affairs of the community for the last three decades and are well placed to explore issues that affect them, and engage with them in a holistic and grounded way.

Professor Mohamad Abdalla is one of Australia's most prominent and respected Muslim leaders, combining the roles of an academic scholar, public intellectual, community leader and commentator. Over the last two decades, he established and led two academic centres including the Griffith Islamic Research Unit (GIRU) at Griffith University, and the Centre for Islamic Thought and Education (CITE) at the University of South Australia, and directed the Griffith University Node of the National Centre of Excellence for Islamic Studies (a consortium between three Australian universities). His publications include the following books: *Islamic schooling in the West: Pathways to Renewal* (Palgrave MacMillan 2018); *Leadership in Islam: Processes and Solutions in Australian Organizations* (Palgrave MacMillan 2018); *Islamic Science: The myth of the decline theory* (2008); and *Islam in the Australian News Media* (2010). Professor Abdalla has held multiple distinguished community posts, and been awarded multiple civic awards, including the Ambassador of Peace Award, the Community Leadership Award, the Islamic Council of Queensland Community Service Award, and the Crescents of Brisbane Special Achievement Award. Professor Abdalla lives in beautiful Adelaide, South Australia, with his wife and son.

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It is with great honour to be able to undertake my doctoral study with CITE, under the supervision of Professor Mohamad Abdalla and to receive consistent support from the whole team.

YAYAN RAHAYAN, PHD CANDIDATE



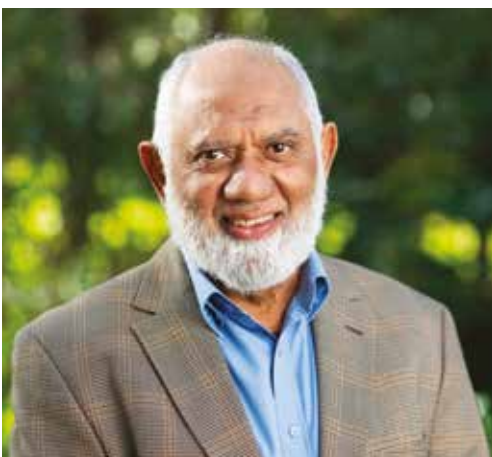
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Dr Nadeem Memon is a Senior Research Fellow and the Program Director for Islamic Education at CITE/UniSA. His research focuses on teacher education with particular emphasis on Islamic Pedagogy, comparative faith-based schooling, philosophy of religious education, and culturally responsive teaching. He is the co-editor of two books: *Philosophies of Islamic Education: Historical Perspectives and Emerging Discourses* (Routledge, 2016) and *Discipline, Devotion, and Dissent: Jewish, Catholic, and Islamic Schooling in Canada* (Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 2013). Prior to joining UniSA, Nadeem was the Director of Education at Razi Education where he spearheaded the design and implementation of a ground breaking online teacher certificate program, the Islamic Teacher Education Program (ITEP), in collaboration with the University of Toronto. Nadeem holds a PhD in Theory and Policy Studies in Education from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) at the University of Toronto, Canada.



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Dr Nada Ibrahim is an expert in Domestic and Family Violence (DFV) in the Australian Muslim community, and culturally and linguistically diverse communities. She holds a PhD in Criminology from Griffith University's Griffith Islamic Research Unit. Her research interests include identifying risk-factors associated with DFV perpetration and victimisation, Muslim DFV victims' experiences with the Australian criminal justice system, developing a gender relations framework based on the Qur'an, fostering healthy family relationships, community development, Islamic psychology, mental health, Islamic family law, disadvantaged Muslim women's issues, and broader Islamic issues. Dr Ibrahim has co-developed and co-designed two prevention/ recovery focused strength-based community-related projects, and is designing others on DFV that address psychological, social and religious needs of victims, abusers, children, men and women to build healthy family relationships whilst empowering the Muslim community. Part of this process also involves equipping Imams/leaders, the wider community, service providers, police and the justice system with culturally appropriate training that would better facilitate a community-coordinated response to domestic and family violence.



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Dr Mahmood Nathie is an Islamic finance scholar and practitioner. He achieved his PhD with academic excellence from Griffith University, Australia. He holds postgraduate degrees in Economics, Taxation and Finance. He is a chartered accountant by profession with many years of experience in the accounting and finance profession specialising in forensic and management accounting, taxation and corporate advisory services. He teaches Islamic studies and engages in research associated with Financial Literacy among Muslims in Australia, Indonesia and Malaysia. Other research interests include examining alternative financing methods for housing, investments and micro business enterprises. He has keen interest in engaging with community, financial institutions and other universities to address complex issues that will benefit individuals and communities. Academically, he has published in numerous journals, appeared and presented numerous papers at major Islamic finance conferences. He was one of the founders of the National Centre of Excellence in Islamic Studies and most recently, the Centre of Islamic thought and Education. He is the recipient of the Australian Government Endeavour Malaysia and the Karima al-Marwaziyyah Research Scholarships.



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Dr Nezar Faris is a scholar in Leadership and Management with a focus on the context of Muslim organisations in the West. He holds a PhD in Leadership from Griffith University's National Centre of Excellence for Islamic Studies. Dr Faris' work has appeared in The Leadership Quarterly. He has co-authored book has been published: Leadership in Islam: Thoughts, Processes and Solutions in Australian Organizations (Palgrave MacMillan; 2018). He won the Australian and New Zealand Academy of Management (ANZAM) Best Paper Award in the Leadership stream for his peer reviewed paper titled; Contextualisation and Conceptualisation in a multifarious context: Mixed models of leadership. Perth, Australia, 4-7 December 2012. He presented refereed conference papers around Australia. His research interests include leadership processes, power procedures and transitions, ethical leadership, responsible leadership, sense making, cultural complexity, leadership metaphors in organisational contexts and leadership research methodologies.



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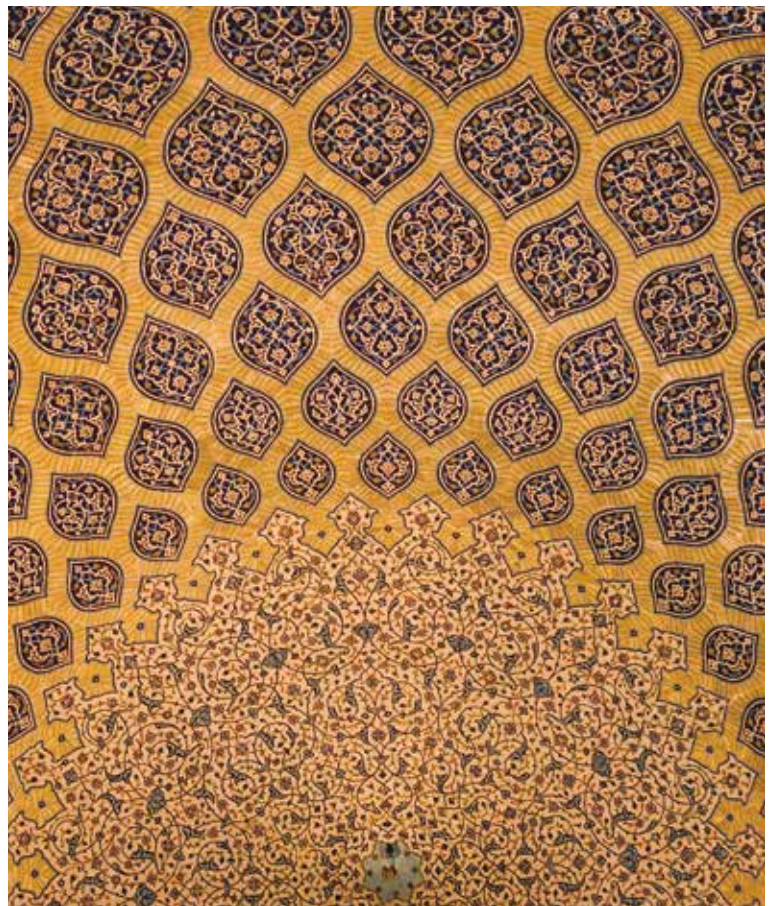
Dylan Chown is a Research Fellow in CITE. His PhD research engages with educators and focuses on the practical manifestations of Islamic pedagogy in Australian Islamic schools. Other research interests include teacher education and educational justice with a focus on Islamic pedagogy, critical pedagogies and culturally and religiously responsive pedagogy and Muslim learners. Dylan coordinates courses within the Graduate Diploma (Islamic Education) and the Islamic pedagogy specialisation within the Master of Teaching. Dylan is also a member of UniSA's Centre for Research in Education and Social Inclusion and Pedagogies for Justice and Wellbeing Research group. Dylan has twenty years' experience in education across various roles including teacher, principal, consultant, researcher and lecturer. Prior to joining UniSA, Dylan was a member of an International network of educators on the Islamic Teacher Education Program (ITEP), a project of Razi Education (Canada/UAE). He is a co-editor of Islamic schooling in the West: Pathways to renewal (Palgrave MacMillan).

ADJUNCTS

CITE has a strong cohort of national and international adjunct professors and senior academics from various Australian universities, USA, Malaysia, Oman and Saudi Arabia.

PHD SCHOLARS

CITE has a large number of PhD candidates, nationally and internationally, researching in a vast range of topics related to CITE's research agenda.





PROFESSIONAL STAFF



Centre Manager Ramila Chanisheff has worked in both public and private universities, across Australia, and previously in the corporate sector. She is responsible for developing and implementing the Centre for Islamic Thought and Education's (CITE) strategic plan and planning activities, ensuring it integrates and aligns with the strategic business development plans of the Division and the University.



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PA and Administrative Officer Jen Manning has been working at UniSA since 2008. Her roles have been wide and varied. Jen is Personal Assistant to the Centre Director and provides key assistance for the Centre's staff and research administration activities.

OUR PARTNERS

CONNECT WITH US

*School of Education,
University of South Australia*

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*National Islamic University, UIN
Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta*

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Qatar University

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Universiti Malaya

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*International Islamic
University of Malaysia*

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Sultan Qaboos University

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*Islamic Schools Association
of Australia*

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Islamic Society of South Australia

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*Islamic Arabic Centre & Al-Khalil
Mosque, South Australia*

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