

KRM and ISAR Co-Sponsor Ottoman Kalam Conference

Kalam Research and Media, in collaboration with the [Istanbul Research and Education Foundation \(ISAR\)](#), and with support from the the John Templeton Foundation and the Municipality of Istanbul, held a conference on the Ottoman Kalam tradition at the [Islamic Research Centre \(ISAM\)](#) in Uskudar, Istanbul.

The Ottoman intellectual tradition represented one of the most important areas for the revival of kalam in the modern era because kalam reached its greatest point of refinement, study, and teaching during the late Ottoman Empire. It also represents the last era in which kalam was widely cultivated in Islamic society. The Ottoman Kalam Conference is the first to conference to emphasize these elements, explore its analytic dimensions, and highlight its most important texts, scholars, and problems.

Abdurrahman Mihirig gave the first address of the conference, introducing participants from around the world to the objectives, members, and activities of Kalam Research and Media. On behalf of Dr. Aref Nayed, he thanked the great efforts of Dr. Recep ?entürk, the organizing committee, the scholarly committee, and the institutions of ISAR and ISAM for hosting such an important event.

The conference brought together 43 researchers from around the world, discussing topics distributed across 8 panels. Among the most notable of guests was the Jordanian kalam scholar, Dr. Said Foudeh, Jordanian Physicist Dr. Basil al-Taie (Yarmuk University), Professor Mustafa Sinano?lu (29 May?s University), Professor Ilyas ?elebi (29 May?s University), Professor Sait Özervarl? (Yildiz Teknik University and ISAM), Professor Alparslan Aç?kgenç (Yildiz Teknik University), Professor Ramazan Alt?nta? (Necmettin Erbakan University), Professor Ca?fer Karada? (Uluda?University), Professor Murteza Bedir (Dean of Ilahiyat, Istanbul University), Professor Ra?it Küçük (President of ISAM), Professor Saim Yeprem, Professor Mahmut Ay (Ankara University), and Professor Merdan Güne? (OsnabrückUniversity).

The opening panel was conducted by Professor Saim Kilavuz, with Professor Ilyas ?elebi, Professor Sait Özervarl?, and Dr. Said Foudeh giving opening addresses on the importance of kalam in history, and its necessity for the future.

The panels were organized on the following lines:

Panel 1, “Kalam in the Ottoman Period: A General Framework,” which included Dr. Mehmet Kalayci (Anakara University), Dr. Fadil Aygan (Siirt University), Dr. Osman Demirci (Karadeniz Teknik University), and Dr. Kadir Gömbeyaz (Kocaeli University).

Panel 2, “Scholars and Themes,” hosting Professor Alparslan Açıkgenç (Yıldız Teknik University), Bilal Taşkın (Çanakkale University), Efe Murat Balçıkçuoğlu (Harvard University), and Dr. Ahmet Hadi Adanalı (Ankara University).

Panel 3, “Hanafism and Maturidism,” which saw the presentation of papers by Dr. Umit Erkan (Recep Tayyip Erdogan University), Dr. Philip Dorroll (Assistant Professor, Wofford College), and Professor Ramazan Altıntaş (Necmettin Erbakan University).

Panel 4, “Kalam and Falsafa,” was chaired by Professor İlyas Çelebi, with papers delivered by Dr. Ahmad Muhammad Salim (Tanta University), Dr. Veysel Kaya (Istanbul University), Muhammad Abughosh (Anzar Institute), and Sumeyye Parıldar of Istanbul University.

Panel 5 explored some of the unique elements of Ottoman Kalam, entitled “Kalam and Tasawwuf,” where Qayyim Naoki Yamamoto and Hasan Spiker explored the works of İbrahim Kurani and İbn Bahauddin respectively.

Panel 6, “Scholars and Themes II,” chaired by Professor Ramazan Altıntaş, hosted scholars Hakki Arslan (Osnabruck University), Dr. Ali al-Suli (Zaytuna University), and Murata Karacan (Osnabruck University).

Panel 7 discussed the critical late Ottoman period, under the title “Late Ottoman Kalam.” The scholars included Dr. Mehmet Bulgen (Marmara University), Dr. Mahmut Ay (Ankara University), Tugba Gunal (Ankara University), and Professor Merdan Güneş (Osnabruck University).

The last panel explored the relationship between kalam and science, by looking at the works of Said Nursi, Ali Sedat, and Atomism, presented by Dr. Yasien Mohamed (University of the Western Cape), Dr. Nazif Muhtarolu (Bozüzi University), and Professor Basil al-Taie (Yarmuk University).