The History and Legacy of Muslims in the Caribbean

4-6 September 2023
Georgetown, Guyana
Call for Papers

The Caribbean region is a rich, diverse part of the world with a history that stretches back over twenty thousand years. Its story is one of a bustling region with thriving civilizations, talented, organized human beings, abundant agriculture, high technology, and highly developed social and political systems. Extensive migrations across the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans brought about a constant exchange of culture.

The arrival of Christopher Columbus in the West Indies in 1492, initiated a new development of a very diversified population in the region. On arrival in the West Indies, the Spanish encountered the Indigenous nations who had populated the region for thousands of years. Other groups, such as the English, French, and Dutch later ventured into the region in the search of wealth and prosperity. The indigenous population was enslaved, killed and some died from European diseases introduced by the colonizers. With the almost annihilation of the native population who provided the labour force for the Europeans, the need arose for labour supply from outside the region. This was provided by the African people who were enslaved and imported from the African continent for the purpose of working on the plantations.

Slavery was abolished between 1834 and 1863 (1834 in Anglophone islands, 1848 in Francophone islands, and 1863 in Dutch islands), but the ex-slaves remained and still constitute the majority population. The societies in the Caribbean all share the experience of European colonization. African slavery was followed by immigration of indentured labourers from Asia, and economic emigration from the Middle East and Asia during the second half of the twentieth century.

This chain of events led to the diversity of the population which is found in the Caribbean today. This very diverse region emerged with a population consisting of persons of different nationalities, languages, and cultures. Considering these socio-historical facts, we invite you to send a proposal for the OIC-IRCICA Caribbean Conference on the History and Legacy of Muslims in the Caribbean, which will take place in Georgetown (Guyana) on the 4th-6th of September 2023.

The conference hopes to contribute to the scholarly debates and deliberations that have been ongoing during the past years; and while it might complement the scholarly inputs of various social scientists and specialists in the humanities, the organizers hope that the conference will result in animated and fruitful discussions regarding the formation and the development of an Islamic legacy in the Caribbean.

The OIC-IRCICA Caribbean Conference encourages scholars from all relevant fields of research to explore and critically examine the Muslim presence in the Caribbean. We invite abstracts for papers covering any topic related to the study of this theme including, but not limited to, the following:
- Early Muslim Arrival and Presence in the Caribbean Region
- Legacies of Slavery and Indentured Labour in Social, Economic, Cultural, and Political Fields
- Muslim/Islamic Identity Formation in the Caribbean Region
- Psychological Impact of Slavery and Indentured Labour on Caribbean Muslim Communities
- Contribution of Muslims in the Caribbean to Social, Economic, Cultural, and Political Life in Their Countries
- Role of Muslim Women in the Development of Muslim Communities in the Region
- Islamic Education in the Caribbean: Basic, Secondary and Higher Education Institutions and Research
- African, Indian, and Southeast Asian Diasporas in the Development of Their Respective Muslim Communities
- Colonialism and Muslim Resistance
- Muslim Youth and Identity Belonging
- Socialization: The African Muslim Experience, The South Asian (Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi) Experience and Surinam’s Javanese Experience
- Relations: Inter- and Intra-Race and Ethnic Ties
- Cultural Communities: Their Continuities and Change
- Integration and Acculturation: Sustaining Muslim Identity
- Adaptation and Creolization: Immigrant Muslims and Their Challenges
- Globalisation: Its Impact on Muslim Practices
- Economic Development and Commerce: The Question of Muslim Activities, Contributions, and Inputs in the Region
- Civic Engagements: The Study of Muslim NGOs and Civil Society Organizations in the Region
- Sporting Codes: Muslim Participation
- Inter-Religious Dialogue and Cooperation: Muslims in Plural Environments
- Institutionalization: The Formation of Muslim Organizations and Muslim Leadership in Society
- Muslims and Local Media: Contribution and Influence
- Muslims’ Cultural Heritage: Tangible and Intangible (Arts and Architecture, Manuscripts, Handicrafts)
- Caribbean in the Global South Context: The Effect(s) of West African Social Movements in the Early 19th Century on the Liberation Movements in the Caribbean Region
Paper Proposals
Individual paper proposals can be submitted by e-mail in MS Word by sending an abstract of 300-350 words, together with a short CV. Papers with a research component will be given higher priority than others.

Deadlines
- Submission of proposals: 30th June 2023
- Notification of acceptance of paper: 15th July 2023
- Submission of full papers: 15th August 2023

Accepted Papers
Airfare and accommodation will be provided for persons whose research papers are accepted by the Academic Committee.

Publication
A selection of papers will be published in one or more volumes by IRCICA.

Language
The conference's language will be English.

Style
Initial submission may use any recognized citation style, but final accepted papers must conform to The Chicago Manual of Style 17th Edition.

Contact Info
Abstracts should be submitted to the Academic Committee at:
ircicacaribbean@gmail.com