About Us

IRCICA undertakes activities related to research, training and publishing on a wide range of subjects related to Islamic civilization and Muslim cultures. Its areas of focus include the history of Muslim peoples, the history of science, archaeology, architecture, fine arts, traditional handicrafts, cultural development, and the preservation of cultural and architectural heritage, among many others.

The Centre works to encourage exchange and cooperation between cultural institutions, universities, scholars, researchers and artists within the Muslim world and beyond, for the purpose of promoting scholarly and creative endeavors. It initiates and conducts collaborative studies, the aim of which is to project a more nuanced and positive narrative about Islam and Muslim cultures around the world. It does so by strengthening affinities between countries within and outside the OIC by way of cultural exchange, thus contributing to building harmonious relations among Muslim peoples and with other communities.

www.ircica.org
EID AL-ADHA | 28 JUNE - 1 JULY

IRCICA expresses its best wishes and greetings on the occasion of Eid Al-Adha

An Eid celebration archival photo from the İbnülemin Mahmud Kemal İnal collection. IRCICA’s digital collections can be viewed [here](#).
IRCICA’s Director General, Ambassador Prof. Mahmud Erol Kılıç and Prof. Cengiz Tomar Head of Research and Publications Department at IRCICA will visit the Sharjah International Foundation for the History of Arab and Muslim Sciences (SIFHAMS) at Sharjah University, where they will meet with Prof. Hamid Al Naimiy, Chancellor of the University of Sharjah and Chairman of the Foundation. The Director General will deliver an internal lecture to the academic faculty members, researchers, postgraduate students and relevant internal members of at the University of Sharjah on the “History & Mission of IRCICA and Its Prospectus: Academic and Research Cooperation with the University of Sharjah (UoS)”. 
IRCICA will take part in a five day event co-organized by the General Secretariat of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the Government of the Republic of Indonesia (Ministry of Youth and Sport), entitled “Embracing diversity and Harmony for a Brighter Future Society”, to be held in Jakarta and East Kalimantan, Indonesia on 7-14 July 2023. The event aims to provide a unique opportunity for youth, students, community leaders and participating guests to celebrate the values of cultural diversity, intercultural understanding, peaceful coexistence and tolerance. IRCICA will participate in the cultural activity with a lecture to be delivered by Ambassador Prof. Mahmud Erol Kılıç, IRCICA Director General, on the “Philosophy of Islamic Arts”. An Exhibition displaying the award winning works from IRCICA’s past Calligraphy Competitions will also be held, as well as an exhibition of Historical Photographs of Makkah al-Mukarramah and al-Medina al-Munawwara from IRCICA’s archival collections.
Field study on historical monuments in quake-hit regions

The Cultural and Architectural Heritage section at IRCICA will publish its report in July about the impact of the February 2023 earthquake on the architectural monuments in region of southeast Türkiye. In March 2023 IRCICA’s Cultural and Architectural Heritage Section conducted a field study in the earthquake-hit region of southeastern Türkiye to assess the damage on historical monuments caused by the disaster. The field study covered monuments in Hatay, Payas, İskenderun, Kilis, Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa, Adıyaman, Kahta, Diyarbakır, Elazığ, Malatya, Elbistan, Kahramanmaraş, Osmaniye cities and towns. The data collected and evaluated in the report will be shared with the relevant authorities of the Republic of Türkiye and the OIC Member States. It will be available to access on our website.
Library - The IRCICA Library and Archive Department will host three students from the Information and Document Management Department of Istanbul Medeniyet University, as part of a summer internship program. During the 20 day work-program students will complete their internship course as a requirement of the academic curriculum. The IRCICA Library and Archive Department frequently hosts trainees and interns alongside specialized researchers who are invited to work and become acquainted with the department’s different sections and units. The internship program is intended to enable students to apply the knowledge gained as part of their studies into real-world practice. Students will thus acquire diverse skills that will introduce them to methods of working with library collections and what that entails in terms of cataloguing and digitization practices, interpreting a collection, problem solving and team work.
Our New Publications

The Crescent at the Cape, The True Story of Shaykh Abu-Bakr Effendi (1814-1880)

In this well-researched biography, Shafiq Morton gives a richly revealing account of the story of Shaykh Abu-Bakr Efendi, one of the stand-out historical figures in the growth of Islam at the foot of Africa.

World Bibliography of Translations of the Meaning of the Holy Quran, Printed Translations, 1515-2015

This bibliography records the translations of the Holy Qur'an in all languages published since the invention of printing, reflecting the history of its transmission across the world.

Click here to learn more about our publications and explore our collections.
Recently arrived to IRCICA Library

İslam'da Klasik-Onrası Felsefenin Teşekkülü
(The Formation of Post-Classical Philosophy in Islam)

In this work, Frank Griffel reviews the trends and processes that led to the reformulation of Islamic philosophical discourse in the 12th century and gives a detailed history of philosophical traditions of Iraq, Iran and Central Asia.

İstanbul ve Mimar Sinan
(Istanbul and Mimar Sinan)

In this illustrated book, Prof. Dr. Suphi Saatçi describes the structures such as mosques, tombs and bridges in various quarters of Istanbul. The book also includes the facsimiles of the works titled Tezkiretül Bünyan and Tezkiretül Ebniye.

Ortaçağ Latin Hristiyan Alemi Müslümanları: 1050-1614
(Muslims of the Medieval Latin Christian World, 1050-1614)

Catlos recounts the history of medieval and early modern Europe from the perspective of Muslim minorities. The book is one of the first to look into the Muslim communities that coexisted with medieval Latin Christianity. Bringing together a series of regional studies, Catlos compares the experiences of Muslims in Iberia, Southern Italy, the Crusaders Kingdoms and Hungary.

Click here to search the library online catalogue
Rediscovering the Islamic classics

Ahmed el-Shamsy rediscovers the classics of Islam with focuses on transformations of the Arab tradition of Islamic book authorship and the actors of this transformation. The author produces an overall picture of the emergence and development of the Arab printing industry by surveying the actors from European orientalist collectors to Arab engravers, manuscripts to printed books, state printers to private printing houses, traditionalists to reformists. Focusing particularly on the printing and publishing businesses in Egypt, the Levant and Iraq, Shamsy reaches beyond producing an analysis of the sector and contributes to existing knowledge on the general progress of the printing tradition and publishing business.

Tanrı'nın Ayetlerinin Çözülenmesi
(Deciphering God's Verses)

In this work, Annemarie Schimmel focuses on the mystical dimensions of Islam – in Quranic terms, to decipher some of the signs or “verses” that testify to the One Truth. The Quran calls upon humans to “see the verses of God”; these verses are “folded into the horizons and onto themselves”. The author delves into the secret sides of Islam with a phenomenological method in an effort to approach the core of Islam.

Tarihi Mezar Taşları
(Historical Gravestones)

Fazıl İsmail Ayanoğlu's four-volume work titled Tarihî Mezar Taşları is a masterpiece that records historical tombstones worn out by the passage of time. It contains illustrations and information, with marginal notes of their inscriptions, on nearly 2500 tombstones of persons ranging from statesmen to poets, janissaries to religious lodges members, located in Istanbul, Edirne and Bursa.
IRCICA is an intergovernmental organization that aims to underscore the cultures, history of thought, arts, and cultural heritage of the Islamic world within the framework of international cooperation for development. This mission was born more than forty years ago, through the OIC Member States’ endeavor to strengthen solidarity amongst themselves on the basis of their shared histories and common cultures. IRCICA was assigned to contribute towards this objective by instituting the necessary grounds and channels and supplying the information and references to enhance cultural cooperation on this basis. Today, IRCICA’s mission is even more significant, since culture acquired more importance as a soft power that connects peoples of the world.

For more information on our ongoing research areas, including our studies and publications on the Holy Quran, Islamic Civilization and Muslim Nations, Architectural Heritage and Arts and Handicrafts please visit our website and social media platforms.