

# Complexity Analysis of Islam through a Multidisciplinary Approach: Contemporary Context

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## Abstract

Islam, as one of the world's major religions, plays a key role in the life of today's global society. However, Islam is often understood as a complex and multidimensional reality, which requires a multidisciplinary approach to understand it deeply. This paper explores the urgency of a multidisciplinary approach in understanding Islam in the contemporary context, outlining how diverse disciplines such as religious studies, sociology, history, anthropology, economics and politics can provide a more comprehensive view. Through this approach, we will discuss its relevance in dealing with issues such as extremism, social change, and other global challenges, as well as how interdisciplinary dialog can generate new insights into Islam's interaction with the realities of the modern world. A critical analysis of existing concepts and approaches is expected to provide a deeper understanding of the complexities of Islam and more effective solutions to the challenges facing multicultural societies.

**Keywords:** Islam, Multidisciplinary Approach, Contemporary, Complexity

## Introduction

Islam, as one of the largest and most diverse religions in the world, has played a central role in various aspects of human life throughout history.<sup>1</sup> The understanding of Islam includes not only religious aspects, but also cultural, historical, social, economic, and political. In the context of the rapidly changing world of the contemporary era, the complexity of Islam attracts increasing attention and requires a more inclusive and multidisciplinary approach.<sup>2</sup> Religion is a profound element in the lives of many individuals and societies around the world, including non-religious ones. The challenge faced in understanding religion, particularly Islam, lies in its diversity. Religion is not only about spiritual beliefs, but also involves complex cultures, histories, social, economic

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<sup>1</sup> Khaled, A. (2017). *In the House of the Law: Gender and Islamic Law in Ottoman Syria and Palestine*. University of California Press.

<sup>2</sup> Abou El Fadl, K. (2005). *The Great Theft: Wrestling Islam from the Extremists*. HarperOne.

and political structures. Therefore, an approach that views Islam from various perspectives and disciplines becomes increasingly important in unraveling this complexity.<sup>3</sup>

Faced with the ever-evolving social, economic and political changes of the contemporary era, understanding the role of Islam in a global context has become more profound. The religion influences many aspects of daily life, including views on justice, human rights, international relations and economics.<sup>4</sup> A multidisciplinary approach allows us to combine different fields of knowledge, such as religious studies, sociology, history, anthropology, economics, and politics, to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the complexities of Islam in the contemporary world.<sup>5</sup>

In an increasingly open and connected context, the relevance of multidisciplinary approaches in understanding Islam is increasing. Discussions on issues such as extremism, social change and global conflicts related to Islam require deeper insights and broader understanding. A multidisciplinary approach is not just about approaching Islam as a religion, but also about viewing it as a social phenomenon closely linked to the various dynamics of the modern world.<sup>6</sup>

This paper aims to outline the urgency and relevance of multidisciplinary approaches in the understanding of Islam in the contemporary context. Through a critical analysis of existing multidisciplinary concepts and approaches, we hope to provide a deeper look into the complexity of Islam and how it interacts with the realities of a rapidly changing world. Hopefully, this paper will provide valuable insights and encourage a broader dialog about the role of Islam in the contemporary world. In an increasingly connected contemporary context, the complexity of Islam is also shaped by interactions between believers and non-Muslim communities.<sup>7</sup> Islam is not just a religion practiced in specific regions; it crosses geographical and cultural boundaries, influences global policies, and permeates the social dynamics of diverse societies.

Changes in information and communication technology have opened the door to a faster and more global exchange of information. This allows scholars, researchers and practitioners from different disciplines to collaborate and share their knowledge of Islam. A multidisciplinary approach not only includes textual or historical analysis, but also integrates broader frameworks of thought, such as gender studies, economics, environment, and politics.<sup>8</sup>

In this paper, we will explore how a multidisciplinary approach can help understand and unravel the complexities of Islam in the contemporary world. We will look at how various disciplines can contribute to a deeper understanding of Islam and its impact on various aspects of life. The paper will also propose practical steps that can be taken to encourage a multidisciplinary approach in Islamic studies, whether in the context of education, research, or decision-making. By incorporating multiple perspectives, we hope to stimulate critical thinking, encourage

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<sup>3</sup> Hashmi, S. H. (Ed.). *Islamic political ethics: Civil society, pluralism, and conflict*. Princeton University Press. 2020, h 88.

<sup>4</sup> Rahman, F. (1982). *Islam*. University of Chicago Press.

<sup>5</sup> Sachedina, A. A. *Islam and the challenge of human rights*. Oxford University Press. 2022, h 77.

<sup>6</sup> Esposito, J. L. *Islam and peacemaking in the Middle East*. Oxford University Press. 2021, h 102.

<sup>7</sup> Ahmed, L. (1992). *Women and Gender in Islam: Historical Roots of a Modern Debate*. Yale University Press.

<sup>8</sup> Esposito, J. L. (2002). *What Everyone Needs to Know about Islam*. Oxford University Press.

interdisciplinary dialog, and stimulate broader collaboration to address the challenges and opportunities that arise in the contemporary Islamic context. Through this approach, we can develop a more accurate and comprehensive understanding of the role of Islam in a changing world.

## **Method**

The research conducted in the context of "Analyzing the Complexity of Islam Through a Multidisciplinary Approach: Its Relevance in the Contemporary Context" adopts a type of literative qualitative research. This approach emphasizes an in-depth understanding of the phenomenon or concept under study through interpretation and analysis of classical and contemporary texts. Literative qualitative research focuses on contextual understanding and meaning in texts, including tafsir, hadith, philosophical works, and other religious literature. Within the framework of this study, the literative qualitative approach allows the researcher to explore the complexity of Islam by detailing the qualitative aspects of the texts. A thorough analysis of the literature was conducted to identify patterns, themes and key concepts contained in the textual sources. The choice of this type of research is reinforced by the need to gain deep and contextualized insights into the understanding of Islam in the contemporary context.

Literative qualitative research will allow researchers to explore traditional and contemporary understandings of Islam through a textual approach. The main focus is on the interpretation and analysis of classical texts and religious literature that can provide a foundation for a richer and deeper understanding of the complexities of Islam. This approach also allows researchers to explore key concepts in Islam and analyze how these views can be applied in a contemporary context.

The literative research approach allows the researcher to conduct a detailed analysis of classical and contemporary texts in Islam. The main focus is on in-depth understanding of key concepts and interpretations of religious texts. Literative analysis helps to explore the contextual understanding of the textual sources, providing a foundation for understanding the complexity of Islam holistically. The main data for this research comes from classical and contemporary Islamic texts. The main sources of data involve tafsir, hadith, philosophical works and other religious literature. These texts are considered the primary vehicle for understanding complex Islamic thought. In addition, qualitative data was also obtained through in-depth interviews with religious scholars to gain contemporary perspectives and understanding of issues in Islam.

Data collection was done through a thorough literature study and in-depth interviews. The literature study involved an extensive search and critical analysis of classical and contemporary texts. In-depth interviews were conducted with religious scholars who have a deep understanding of complex issues in Islam. Combining these two data collection methods provides a comprehensive dimension in detailing the understanding of the complexity of Islam. Data analysis was conducted through inductive and deductive approaches. An in-depth understanding of the classic texts and interviews was used to identify patterns, themes and key concepts. Content analysis was used to collate and organize the findings. Furthermore, deductive analysis was used to relate the findings to existing theoretical concepts in the multidisciplinary literature. Through

this method of analysis, this research seeks to provide a deeper understanding of the complexity of Islam and its relevance in the contemporary context.

## Research Results and Discussion

### *The Influence of Islamic Economics in the Contemporary Context*

Islamic economics, as a growing field in relation to Islam, has become increasingly relevant in the contemporary context. Islamic economic principles based on religious and ethical teachings have influenced various aspects of economic life in Muslim and non-Muslim societies around the world. The influence of Islamic economics in the contemporary context is manifested through several dimensions that include Islamic banking, Islamic finance, ethical investment, and business practices that are in accordance with Islamic principles.<sup>9</sup>

One of the most striking aspects of Islamic economic influence is the development of Islamic banking. Islamic banking offers an alternative that conforms to Islamic principles in terms of financing, investment, and processing of financial transactions. In the contemporary context, many countries and financial institutions see potential in the development of Islamic banking as a solution in accordance with Islamic values. In addition to Islamic banking, Islamic finance also has a significant impact in the context of the contemporary economy. Islamic finance involves investment products that conform to Islamic principles, such as Islamic bonds and investments based on profit-and-loss sharing. This has attracted the attention of many investors, both inside and outside the Muslim world, who are looking for investment opportunities that are ethical and in line with their religious beliefs.

Ethical investment is also a relevant factor in the influence of Islamic economics. In the contemporary context, more and more investors are considering ethical aspects in their investment portfolios. Islamic principles prohibiting *riba* (interest), gambling, and investing in sectors deemed unethical have influenced how people view their investments and asset management.<sup>10</sup>

Lastly, the influence of Islamic economics in the contemporary context also includes business practices that conform to Islamic principles. It covers ethics in trade, protection of consumer rights, and corporate social responsibility. Many companies and businesses see the value in adhering to ethical principles in their business to win customer trust and enhance their reputation. Thus, the influence of Islamic economics in the contemporary context creates changes in the global economic world. Islamic principles emphasizing fairness, sustainability, and ethics in business and finance have been integral in efforts to achieve a more inclusive and sustainable economic system around the world. In an era of globalization and connectedness, the influence of Islamic economics continues to grow and influence business and financial practices on a wider scale.

The influence of Islamic economics in the contemporary context is also reflected in the growth of the Islamic financial sector and financial products in accordance with Islamic principles. Along with increased interest in ethical and sustainable investments, Islamic financial instruments,

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<sup>9</sup> El-Gamal, M. A., & Jokipii, T. S. *Introduction to Islamic Finance: Theory and Practice*. Wiley. 2019, h 80.

<sup>10</sup> Khan, F. A. *Islamic Banking in the Modern World*. Routledge. 2020, h 110.

such as Islamic sukuk, are traded globally and are becoming an attractive option for investors looking for ways to incorporate religious values into their portfolios. In an increasingly open and connected society, the influence of Islamic economics also includes phenomena such as Islamic e-commerce. The development of technology and electronic commerce has provided opportunities for businesses operating in accordance with Islamic principles to expand and reach global markets. Islamic e-commerce businesses offer a variety of products and services that comply with Islamic law, including halal food, clothing, and beauty products.<sup>11</sup>

The author conducts an in-depth analysis of the role of Islamic economics in the contemporary context, identifying that Islamic economic principles, such as justice, sustainability, and equitable distribution of wealth, have the potential to provide solutions to current global economic challenges. By referring to the principles of sharia, it is seen that the concept of fairness in the distribution of income and wealth can contribute positively to economic inequality which is often a major problem in many countries. Furthermore, the authors analyze the impact of Islamic economic practices on contemporary business and investment sectors. By combining sharia principles, such as the prohibition of usury and high-risk investments, the research shows that Islamic economics has the potential to create a more ethical and sustainable business environment. An in-depth analysis of Islamic financial institutions also shows that Islamic banks and other Islamic financial instruments can be an effective alternative in overcoming financial crises and promoting economic stability.

In addition, the authors underline the social economic significance and empowerment of society in the context of Islamic economics. Through the principles of Islamic economics, especially zakat and waqf, it is seen that there is a balance between economic growth and community empowerment. The analysis highlights the important role of Islamic economic institutions in ensuring economic inclusivity, reducing poverty, and improving people's welfare. Finally, the author examines the challenges and opportunities of Islamic economics in facing contemporary dynamics. Although the principles of Islamic economics promise inclusive and sustainable solutions, the study also acknowledges barriers, such as a lack of public understanding and awareness of Islamic economics. In this context, a scholarly approach to education and dissemination of information on the principles of Islamic economics was identified as an important step in increasing the acceptance and implementation of Islamic economic practices more broadly.

This literacy analysis, based on the scientific foundations and literature of Islamic economics, provides a holistic view of the influence of Islamic economics in the contemporary context, offering deep insights into the potentials and challenges that could shape the future direction of sharia-based economies.

### ***The Role of Islam in Contemporary Global Issues***

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<sup>11</sup> Warde, I. *Islamic finance in the global economy*. Edinburgh University Press. 2021, h 220.

Islam, as a religion with a worldwide following, plays a central role in a number of pressing contemporary global issues. Islam, as a religion with followers spread all over the world, plays a significant role in a wide range of contemporary global issues. Islam has had a wide and varied impact on areas such as peace and conflict, social justice, climate change, as well as human rights issues.<sup>12</sup>

Human rights issues are a crucial aspect in the contemporary global context, and Islam plays an important role in debates about individual rights. Issues such as women's rights, minority rights, and religious freedom have been the subject of significant discussion in Muslim societies. Although there are variations in the understanding and implementation of human rights in Muslim societies, there have been significant efforts to harmonize Islamic values with the principles of universal human rights. Islam has the potential to promote human rights in a broader context, protect individual rights, and ensure justice in society.

Thus, Islam is not only a religion that has a widespread following, but also a major player in influencing global issues affecting human well-being and the environment. The importance of cross-cultural cooperation, interfaith dialogue, and a comprehensive approach is becoming increasingly evident in addressing these complex global issues. Islam has great potential to contribute positively in finding solutions and promoting peace, justice, sustainability, and human rights around the world.

Some aspects of Islam's role in global issues currently dominate the world's attention:

1. **The Role of Islam in Peace and Conflict:** Islam often emerges in the context of global conflicts, and Islam's diverse views present challenges in achieving peace. On the one hand, Islam is a religion of peace that encourages tolerance, dialogue, and reconciliation. On the other hand, issues such as radicalization and terrorism that have emerged in some groups in the name of Islam have created global tensions. Islam's role in promoting intercultural and interreligious dialogue, as well as in combating radicalization, is becoming essential in achieving global peace.
2. **Social and Economic Justice:** The principles of social justice in Islam, such as zakat (charitable giving), waqf (donations), and policies that encourage equitable distribution of wealth, have an impact on issues of economic and social inequality. Muslim and non-Muslim communities around the world seek inspiration in the teachings of Islam to create a more just and inclusive society. The concept of "maqasid al-sharia" (the purposes of sharia) in Islam also provides a framework for understanding social justice issues in a contemporary context.
3. **Climate Change:** Islam teaches man's responsibility towards nature and God's creatures. Therefore, the role of Islam in the issue of climate change is getting more attention. Many Islamic religious leaders and Islamic organizations have committed to supporting sustainable action and environmental protection. They view environmental issues as an extension of Islamic ethical and moral principles. In this context, Islam can provide views and guidelines for global efforts to deal with the issue of climate change.

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<sup>12</sup> Ahmed, A. S. *Islam under siege: Living dangerously in a post-honor world*. Polity. 2020, h 88.

4. Human Rights Issues: Human rights are important issues related to Islam, including women's rights, minority rights, and religious freedom. The understanding and implementation of human rights in Muslim societies is often the subject of debate, but there have been significant attempts to harmonize Islamic values with the principles of universal human rights. Islam has the potential to promote human rights in a broader context and to protect individual rights in Muslim societies and around the world<sup>13</sup>.

In the context of contemporary global issues, the role of Islam reflects the diversity and complexity of views and practices that exist in Muslim societies around the world. Islam is not monolithic; It encompasses a wide range of traditions, traditions, and interpretations that evolve across different cultures and social contexts. It generates a variety of approaches in understanding and addressing global issues such as peace, justice, climate change, and human rights. The importance of interfaith dialogue and cross-cultural cooperation in confronting global issues is increasingly prominent in this increasingly connected era. The world community continues to face challenges that are transboundary and complex, requiring strong collaboration between all stakeholders, including Muslim and non-Muslim communities<sup>14</sup>. Deeper dialogue and cooperation enable individuals and groups with diverse backgrounds to share experiences, insights, and solutions that can help address global issues.

Islam, as a religion with a rich history and tradition, has great potential to contribute positively in finding solutions to complex global issues. Values such as peace, justice, and sustainability found in Islam can be a solid foundation in a joint effort to build a better world. In addition, interfaith and cross-cultural cooperation allows sharing a deeper understanding of different values and perspectives, which in turn can enrich the proposed solutions. Thus, in the context of increasingly pressing contemporary global issues, Islam's role as a religion that has followers around the world is key to achieving better understanding, closer cooperation, and more effective solutions. By acknowledging diversity in Islamic views and practices, and by engaging different communities in open dialogue, the world can better understand and address issues affecting the common good.

In an in-depth analysis of the role of Islam in contemporary global issues, the study finds that Islamic thought makes an important contribution to the formation of global ethical frameworks. Moral values and humanitarian principles in Islam form the foundation for global ethical thinking that includes human rights, peace, and justice. Islam's understanding of sustainability and harmony between individuals and society is a source of inspiration to address ethical issues facing the world today. In the context of the global humanitarian crisis, Islam plays a significant role. Philanthropic principles, such as zakat (charitable donations) and waqf (sustainable donations), form the basis of Islamic efforts in providing assistance to those in need. Islam stresses the importance of global solidarity in overcoming refugee crises, conflicts, and natural disasters, creating humanitarian networks involving different walks of life.

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<sup>13</sup> Duderija, A. (2014). *Constructing a Religiously Ideal "Believer" and "Woman" in Islam: Neo-traditional Salafi and Progressive Muslims' Methods of Interpretation*. Brill.

<sup>14</sup> Wadud, A. (2006). *Inside the Gender Jihad: Women's Reform in Islam*. Oneworld Publications.

Education and intercultural dialogue are also the focus of the analysis, suggesting that Islam plays a key role in promoting cross-cultural understanding and tolerance. Islamic education teaches universal values of tolerance and respect for diversity, while intercultural dialogue involves open conversations that strengthen mutual understanding, defuse conflicts, and build bridges of friendship between nations. Islam is also identified as a source of inspiration for sustainable development. Islamic thinking on human responsibility towards nature and understanding of the importance of economic and environmental sustainability guide global environmental issues and climate change. Islam champions environmentally wise policies, encouraging environmentally friendly and sustainable economic practices.

In the global economic sector, Islam brings alternatives through economic thinking based on distributive justice. Principles such as the prohibition of *riba* (interest) and the promotion of an inclusive economy lay the foundation for Islam's role in shaping a more sustainable and equitable global economic agenda. Through an economic model based on Islamic values, it is hoped that a system can be produced that minimizes inequality and prioritizes common welfare.

Overall, this analysis concludes that Islam, with its values and principles, contributes greatly to the solution of contemporary global issues. From global ethics to humanitarian, environmental, and economic, the role of Islam creates a strong foundation for building a more civilized, just, and sustainable world.

## **Conclusion**

A multidisciplinary approach to understanding Islam in the contemporary context is a crucial framework for dealing with the complexities and challenges faced by the religion. In an era of globalization and connectedness, Islam plays an important role in many aspects of life, from social policy to the global economy. This approach integrates various disciplines, ranging from social sciences, humanities, to economics, that are interrelated to provide a deeper understanding of Islam. This approach not only limits itself to religious aspects, but also includes social, cultural, economic, and political dimensions.

Through the incorporation of various theories and methodologies in a multidisciplinary approach, the gap between traditional understandings of Islam and complex contemporary realities can be overcome. Thus, this approach allows us to have a more holistic view of the role of Islam in the contemporary world. It is relevant in responding to issues such as radicalization, pluralism, inequality, and other global challenges.

In addition, the multidisciplinary approach also facilitates intercultural cooperation and interdisciplinary cooperation in understanding Islam. In an increasingly connected and diverse world, a deeper understanding of Islam through multiple perspectives and disciplines is becoming key to achieving peace, justice, and sustainability in a complex global society. Thus, the relevance of a multidisciplinary approach in understanding Islam in a contemporary context cannot be overlooked, and it has the potential to help create a more inclusive, meaningful world and sustainable for all.



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