

Moral Values and Financial Markets: Islamic Finance against the Financial Crisis

Milan, 18th - 19th November 2009
Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei
Corso Magenta 63

Organised by:
Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei and Durham University

Morality and ethics are increasingly seen as important ingredients to be included in the future financial system. Aim of this conference is to provide critical perspectives on the financial system(s) by assessing the underlying values, principles and features of Islamic banking and finance with reference to the concept of moral economy, which substantiate its observed resilience against the prevailing financial crisis.

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

09.30-10.00 *Registration and welcome coffee*

10.00-10.20 **Welcome address**
Mehmet **Asutay**, Durham University, UK
Bernardo **Bortolotti**, FEEM and University of Turin, Italy

10.20-12.30 **Session 1. Foundations of Islamic finance**
Chair: Daniele **Atzori**, FEEM and Durham University, UK

An introduction to Islamic moral economy
Mehmet **Asutay**, Durham University, UK

Islamic financing instruments
Habib **Ahmed**, Durham University, UK

Islamic asset management
Iqbal **Asaria**, Afkar Consultancy, UK

Achieving equal tax treatment for Islamic finance
Mohammed **Amin**, PricewaterhouseCoopers, UK

Discussion

12.30-14:00 *Lunch*

14.00-16.00 **Session 2. Instruments of Islamic finance at work**

Chair: Mehmet **Asutay**, Durham University, UK

Capital structure, efficiency and governance: a comparison between Islamic and western banks

Lucia **Dalla Pellegrina**, Bocconi University and University of Bicocca, Italy

Can an Islamic model of housing finance cooperative elevate the economic status of the underprivileged?

M. Shahid **Ebrahim**, Nottingham University, UK

Fiqh perspective on hedging as implemented in Islamic financial institutions

Asyraf Wajdi **Dato' Dusuki** and Edib **Smolo**, International Shari'ah Research Academy for Islamic Finance - ISRA, Malaysia

Islamic securitisation: an alternative to avoid subprime crisis

Nafis **Alam**, Monash University, Malaysia

Discussion

16.00-16:30 *Coffee break*

16.30-18.00 **Session 3. Weathering the storm: Islamic finance and the financial crisis**

Chair: Habib **Ahmed**, Durham University, UK

Islamic economic system as an "embedded" system: economic analysis of fiqh al-Muamalat and its macroeconomic implication to the current financial crisis

Nagaoka **Shinsuke**, Kyoto University, Japan

From great depression to the present global financial crisis: lessons from Islamic investment financing

Seif El-Din **Tag El-Din**, Markfield Institute of Higher Education, UK

Will the Islamic financial system fall into the financial crisis trap? Some lessons to be learnt

Mohamed Asmy **Bin Mohd Thas Thaker**, International Islamic University, Malaysia

Discussion

Closure of the first day

Thursday, November 19, 2009

09-00-10.30 **Session 1. Shari'ah compliance and indices**

Chair: Zamir **Iqbal**, The World Bank, USA

Shari'ah compliance in financial intermediation: legal and moral issues

Zurina **Shafii**, Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia, Malaysia

Shari'ah screening systems and indexes

Shehab **Marzban**, IdealRatings, Egypt

An introduction to Takaful and Takaful industry

Abulrahman **Tolefat**, Alianz Takaful, Bahrain

Discussion

10.30-11.00 *Coffee break*

11.00-13.00 **Panel discussion: the future of Islamic finance in the global economy**

Moderator: *tb*

Yahya Sergio Yahe **Pallavicini**, Comunità Religiosa Islamica Italiana – COREIS, Italy

Habib **Ahmed**, Durham University, UK

Enrico **Vitali**, Strategic Committee, Ministero Affari Esteri, Italy

Rony **Hamaui**, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore and Mediofactoring, Italy

13.00-14.30 *Lunch*

14.30-16.30 **Session 2. Risk and Shari'ah compliance**

Chair: Zurina **Shafii**, Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia, Malaysia

Managing the risks of risk management: lessons from the current financial crisis

Zamir **Iqbal**, The World Bank, USA

The Islamic investment industry: is the current financial crisis a blessing in disguise?

Wafica Ali **Ghoul**, Lebanese International University, Lebanon

Questioning Shari'ah compliance as a potential source of financial vulnerability

Shehab **Marzban** and Mehmet **Asutay**, Durham University, UK

The credit crisis from an Islamic risk management perspective: how the Shari'ah can provide valuable lessons for capitalists

Azman **Ismail** Muhammad Ali Jinnah **Ahmad**, International Shari'ah Research Academy, Malaysia

Discussion

16.30-17.00 *Coffee break*

17.00-18.30 **Session 3. Critical perspectives of Islamic finance**

Chair: M. Shahid **Ebrahim**, Nottingham University, UK

The 'religious equivalence' of profit loss sharing and fixed income modes of financing: legal positivism and the failure of Islamic finance

Ali-reza **Bhojani**, University of Durham, UK

The debt culture, financial crisis and macro-stabilisation policy: are we thinking out of the box yet?

Mohammad Omar **Farooq**, Royal University, Bahrain

Why does nobody see the financial system as a whole?

Dian **Masyita**, Durham University, UK

Prescribing a paradigm shift from the tradition corporate governance - a Shari'ah antidote and input to the current financial turmoil

Abubakar Muhammad **Musa**, International Shari'ah Research Academy for Islamic Finance -ISRA, Malaysia

Discussion

Closure of the conference