

## **Preface / Vorwort**

*Editor / Herausgeber\**

### **Dear readers,**

This is the second edition of HIKMA, an academic journal which invites its readers to participate in an academic and factual discussion. This edition aims to examine the Islamic religion from a mainly inter-religious perspective while at the same time procuring to do so in a reciprocal, two-way fashion. The issue contains articles on a range of diverging issues. Thus, in this edition

- 1) the Bible is examined by experts in the interpretation of Islamic texts,
- 2) a Christian appraises the Islamic religion in modern day Germany and
- 3) the role of Islam in missionary activities in the Russian Empire and the reaction of the Islamic religion and culture to these missionary activities are investigated.

In addition, various aspects of religious instruction are debated, both in terms of the content of religious education and in terms of the concept itself. The authors approach these subjects from differing angles and identify different ways of looking at and analysing the subject matter. The authors also propose possible solutions to contemporary problems in the field of religious education.

The primary objective of the journal is to encourage a lively 'discourse culture' which can develop in a climate of mutual respect. We expressly welcome contributions which consider patterns and structures from an external perspective. In this way we seek to enable a large array of academic contributions and positions to be brought to the attention of a wider public.

Whilst being on the one hand ineluctably tied to the needs of religious Muslims in Europe, the journal seeks on the other to make religious knowledge more academic, i.e. to contribute to an advancement of religious knowledge in an academic environment. It can thus be in many ways regarded as a 'typical' theological journal. The journal's advisory board is consequently international, interreligious and interdisciplinary in nature, and its members come from all parts of Europe. The journal also publishes articles written in English, and thus does not limit itself merely to the German speaking parts of the world.

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The publishing team hopes that you will enjoy reading the journal.

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Bülent Ucar

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