

This book - Systems Approach to the Integration of Knowledge: An Islamic Perspective - is an attempt to situate the Islamic perspective on integration of knowledge, a research program initiated by the International Institute of Islamic Thought, within the more general approach to integration of knowledge advanced by the systems paradigm, globally recognized as the frontier of scientific knowledge. Nine reasons for this intellectual endeavor were given and the end result is a unique blend of background literature that spans systems ontology, epistemology and methodology and a robust systemic Qur'anic worldview out of which theories about the emergence and functioning of micro human and macro social systems were crafted. Integration has been shown to be a characteristic of social knowledge derived from Islamic sources.

The integrative turn in Western academia was shown to be a consequence of the response to what is called the meta-crisis of the 21st century. The latter represents "deep and complexly interrelated global crises: ecological, economic, political, moral, and existential, to name but some of pertinence. These complex problems or crises present extraordinary dangers and pitfalls, as well as great opportunities and potentials. Due to their profound interdependencies and feedback loops, these complex and intractable crises can best be understood as a singular socioecological crisis... Indeed, the meta-crisis is a complex, multifaceted totality which is far more complex than can adequately be addressed by piecemeal, monodisciplinary approaches and methodologically restricted research programs. Such approaches fail to account for all its facets and their dynamic, non-linear interrelationships and are therefore incapable of providing adequate holistic accounts of the meta-crisis"

The Islamic perspective on the systems approach to the integration of knowledge had been developed with the call for a post-materialist science in mind. This development was accomplished through three stages: a systemic Qur'anic worldview; the emergence of man; and the emergence of macro social systems. The emphasis was on the integration of social knowledge.



Professor Muhammad Alhasan Biraima is a Sudanese scholar, born in 1954. He received his B. Sc. honors in economics from the university of Khartoum in 1978, and proceeded to get his PhD in economics from the university of York, England in 1983. Since then, he joined the university of Gezira (UofG), Sudan, as an academic staff until his retirement in 2019. He founded the Institute for Islamization of Knowledge (IMAM) in 1990 as an advanced research and graduate study center at UofG and went on to lead it as a dean until 2008.

Professor Biraima's first debut in his lifelong research program in Islamization of Knowledge was his famous and pioneering English paper "A Qur'anic Model for a Universal Economic Theory", written while he was a post doctorate visiting scholar at Boston university, USA, 1989. The paper was published in 1993 by King Abdelaziz Journal: Islamic economics, after receiving a rating of distinction from three reviewers. Since then, Professor Biraima wrote and published numerous Arabic books and papers pushing his research program to new frontiers. Some of these publications can be found and downloaded freely from his website (biraima.net).

