International Conference

*Between God and Mankind: Chances and Challenges of Islamic Anthropologies*

12th/13th September 2018

The question of what it means to be human is a universal question, which concerns all kinds of philosophical and religious traditions. The way particularly religious people respond to that question and identify their relationship to God does not only affect their personal behavior, but it also affects the organization of religious communities and it even has an impact on the surrounding non-religious society. Traditional religious interpretations of the relationship between God and humans seem to underline a hierarchical perception. They consider the divine to be at the starting point of any reflection while the human's role is to be considered only in relation to it. This perception has often been accused of inducing attitudes of subordination and dependency. On the other hand, recent understandings of the relationship between God and humans reinforce the idea of focusing on human requirements and interests, both religious and social. Therefore, modern religious and theosophical discourses develop the idea of anthropocentric rather than theocentric images of God. This shift in considering the God-human relationship has a strong impact on how to understand the human condition in general. Today Muslim understandings of the relationship between God and humans must first describe the kind of conception of being human they assume. In order to answer these kinds of questions, an academic discourse has been established in recent years on the chances and challenges of a so-called Islamic Anthropology.

The *Swiss Center for Islam and Society* is inviting you to its annual international conference. The conference gathers numerous international speakers (with Dr. Asma Lamrabet, Dr. Muhammad Shahrou; Prof. Mona Siddiqui and others) and provides opportunities for productive academic exchange.

Further information will follow shortly.