



Kaleidoscope
**Islamic Philosophy
& Spirituality**

For Educators

Introduction to Kaleidoscope

- Kaleidoscope is envisioned as an umbrella of learning programs that shall use the rich and dynamic lens of the different Social Sciences and Humanities to deepen audiences' understanding of the world around them. It will bring programs for educators, students, corporates and non-profit institutions.
- Just as a kaleidoscope reveals vibrant patterns through shifting angles, this umbrella program of Edwise will help audiences examine and critically reflect on different phenomena from an interdisciplinary perspective.

Program Description

- This program is specially designed for educational leaders and educators. It explores key ideas from the Islamic intellectual tradition and their implications for contemporary schooling.
- Drawing on the works of Al-Ghazali and Ibn Khaldun, the program also delves into the tradition of *taṣawwuf* and the important theme of Muslim identity. Participants will reflect on how insights from the Islamic philosophical tradition can shape educational purpose, leadership, and practice.
- The sessions bridge classical thought with present-day educational challenges - encouraging leaders to re-examine notions of knowledge, ethics, and holistic student development through an Islamic lens.

This program will explore several questions, a few have been enlisted below:

1. If we teach Islam and Iman, why is Ihsan—excellence in character—often missing from education today?
2. Why do many students struggle morally despite having “religious studies” in their curriculum?
3. How might educators, perhaps unintentionally, be reinforcing a sense of defeatism among students?
4. How can educators teach spirituality without indoctrination?

Program Objectives

It is expected that by the end of this course participants would be able to:

- 01 Apply historical thinking to avoid cultivating a “victim consciousness” in classroom teaching.
- 02 Identify ways to make Ibn Khaldūn’s thought relevant and exciting for Muslim students today.
- 03 Integrate ethical and spiritual aims into teaching without indoctrination.
- 04 Adopt a holistic educational vision beyond grades and employability.

Program Outline (tentative)

Session 1

Imam Al Ghazali and the Narrative of Islamic Decline

- Narrative of Civilization Decay
- Colonial Powers and Muslim self-perception
- Alternative Story of Muslim Intellectual Decay

Session 2

Ibn Khaldun: An Inspiring Thinker for Our Times

- Ideas from Khaldun’s Muqaddimah
- Adopting the pedagogy of Ibn Khaldun
- Ibn Khaldun as the greatest Muslim thinker

Session 3

taṣawwuf and Modern Education

- Islam, Iman and Ihsan
- *taṣawwuf* as the institution for cultivating Ihsan.
- Teaching about spirituality without indoctrination

Session 4

Muslim Identity and Consciousness

- The person our education system produces
- Forming ethical-spiritual consciousness in classrooms
- Spirituality and Academic Excellence

Program Delivery and Pedagogy

- 4-online interconnected working sessions
- Interactive sessions featuring Socratic questioning, textual reading and discussion.
- Collaborative group work using break-out rooms.
- Using scholarly texts and audio-visual materials.
- Downloadable content available from Google Classrooms.
- A WhatsApp community to facilitate exchange of ideas and perspectives.

Facilitator's Profile

Dr. Syed Baqar

Assistant Professor, Humanities and Social Sciences, LUMS

Dr. Baqar is a scholar of Islamic intellectual history at the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at LUMS Pakistan. He teaches courses on Islamic Philosophy, Sufism, Islamic Studies and Theology.

His research explores how premodern Islamic traditions continue to shape contemporary Muslim thought. He is currently developing a book based on his doctoral research titled "Ibn Khaldūn: His Idea of History and Its Reception in South Asia."

