

Professor Ebrahim Moosa

A Ghazalian Perspective on Discursive Traditions: Provenance of Knowledge and Authority Past and Present Dilemmas

This paper explores the notion of a discursive tradition from a Ghazalian perspective, and how it can be amplified and tailored for contemporary Muslim needs. Discursivity in classical and post-classical Islam was a much more complex proposition compared to contemporary conceptualisations of it. Furthermore, drawing on Sa'd al-Din al-Taftazani, the paper will argue for the need to explore the homogeneity of knowledge, a proportion that most traditionalists - of all stripes - are resisting with their versions of identity politics based on East vs West, Islam vs West political dynamics. The paper will also weave some of the experiences gained while educating madrasa graduates in India and Pakistan, in questions of science, theology and history, in the Madrasa Discourses program in the past 5 years.



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Prof. Ebrahim Moosa (PhD, University of Cape Town 1995) is Mirza Family Professor of Islamic Thought and Muslim Societies in the Keough School of Global Affairs, at the University of Notre Dame. He co-directs 'Contending Modernities', the global research and education initiative examining the interaction among Catholic, Muslim, and other religious and secular forces in the world. He is a faculty fellow of the Keough School's Liu Institute for Asia and Asian Studies.

Moosa's interests span both classical and modern Islamic thought with a special focus on Islamic law, history, ethics and theology. His book, *What Is a Madrasa?*, was published in 2015 by the University of North Carolina Press. Moosa is also the author of *Ghazali and the Poetics of Imagination*, winner of the American Academy of Religion's Best First Book in the History of Religions (2006) and editor of the last manuscript of the late Professor Fazlur Rahman, *Revival and Reform in Islam: A Study of Islamic Fundamentalism*.