

## **Dr Celene Ibrahim**

### **Divine Unity and Moral Subjectivities: Comparative Approaches and Tradition-Specific Paradigms for Cultivating the Moral Self**

This paper synthesizes how Muslim conceptions of divine nature and attributes resonate with or are distinct from contending metaphysical paradigms and worldview perspectives. My analysis includes a concise survey of the most recent and valuable comparative work on Muslim–Christian, Muslim–Jewish, Muslim–Hindu, and Muslim–Buddhist thought and relations, but the bulk of the paper prioritizes demographically smaller traditions that have not already received robust attention in scholarly literatures, namely, Jain, Sikh, Vodún, Daoist, Confucian and select Native traditions and their convergences and divergences with Muslim theology and cosmology. The paper highlights specific avenues through which Muslim scholars—and Muslims more generally—can be in generative dialogue with the traditions and philosophies that espouse differing conceptions of Ultimate Reality. I offer an array of tradition-specific scholarly resources and fruitful avenues for further inquiry and practical engagement. Humanist and scientific materialist perspectives are also considered. I argue that the nexus of spiritual and moral praxis, i.e., the deliberate cultivation of a specific moral self, offers a generative space for dialogical engagement and cross-civilizational learning. The paper extends the work of my recent book, *Islam and Monotheism*, published this year by Cambridge University Press, which explores the concept of divine unity in Islamic thought.



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