

## FROM THE EDITORS

*İlahiyat Studies* is a new multidisciplinary academic journal dedicated to publishing original articles, essays, reports, and book reviews primarily within the fields of Islamic and Religious Studies. In our context, the term *İlahiyat* is not confined within the boundaries of its classical usage as one branch of Islamic philosophy, which refers to a variety of issues on first philosophy, metaphysics, and the notion of God. Rather, we intend to widen its scope and use it in a broader sense to include any topic related to what is considered to be “divine,” as studied under three general categories of Classical Islamic Sciences, History of Islam and Islamic Arts, and Philosophy and the Study of Religion(s). In so doing we hope to bring out a truly interdisciplinary journal whose focus is upon the intersection of more than one discipline, perspective, and religious tradition.

We initiated this project with a view to providing a forum for the scholars of Islamic Studies and of Study of Religion(s) from all over the world through which they can share, test, and disseminate their research results and findings, making them available to a wider international audience in English. This is especially important within the context of Turkish society where the great accumulation of knowledge not only in every branch of Islamic sciences, but also in social sciences, and humanities remains largely unknown to the wider academic world. Except for a couple of universities and academic departments, Turkish has been almost the only scientific language in the Turkish university system for various reasons not to be discussed here. As a result, the body of knowledge accumulated over the centuries has not been able to find a viable channel through which it can sufficiently reach the international academic stage thus far. With the *İS* initiative we hope to “raise a voice” by taking the lead in developing similar and better projects that would address to the needs and problems of our time. Although *İS* is the first in its kind in Turkey to provide scholars with an effective channel of communication in English, we are not in the position to imply that our attempt is sufficient to fill the gap. As stated above: it is just that, a “voice!”

As the editors of *IS*, we are thankful to all those scholars, contributors and the members of the editorial board for their dedication, cooperation, and assistance. We would like to thank Professor Dr. Ahmet S. Kılavuz, Dean of the Faculty of Theology of Uludağ University, and his administration for their continued support and encouragement through every step of this project. We wish to extend our gratitude to the Board of Trustees of Bursa İlahiyat Foundation and to the anonymous but generous contributors whose financial support made the final launching of this journal possible.

We hope *IS* will provide an effective forum for constructive critique and for creative thinking on all aspects of Islamic and Religious Studies/Study of Religion(s).