

Editorial: Trajectories and Reflections on Four Years of Interdisciplinary Qur'anic Discourse

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1. Introduction

It is our pleasure to present the eighth issue of the *Journal of Interdisciplinary Qur'anic Studies*. Featuring twelve scholarly articles, this issue marks the conclusion of our fourth year of publication. Over these eight consecutive issues, we have published a total of ninety-six articles, reflecting a steadfast commitment to fostering interdisciplinary discourse and scholarly rigor. This milestone offers a valuable opportunity to reflect on our thematic trajectory and the scholarly path we have traversed thus far.

2. A Review of Thematic Developments (Issues 1–8)

From its inaugural issue, which introduced a novel quantitative approach to evaluating the Qur'an's miraculous nature, the journal has consistently sought to bridge the gap between Qur'anic studies and contemporary science. Our foundational orientation was exemplified by research such as “*Scientific Explanation of Hail Based on the Verse 43 of Surah al-Nūr*,” “*Formation of the Universe from the Viewpoint of the Qur'an and Science*,” “*An Evolutionary Reading of Adam's Creation*,” and “*Investigating the story of Noah's Flood according to Qur'anic verses and archaeological researches*.” Parallel to this trend, philosophy and theology gained an early

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foothold through works like *“The Authority of Intellect and its Function from the Perspective of the Holy Qur’an”* and *“Panpsychism in Philosophy of Mind, Transcendent Philosophy, and the Qur’an,”* while linguistics established its presence by exploring the intersection of Qur’anic language and scientific discourse.

Issues Two and Three witnessed a remarkable expansion in linguistics, discourse analysis, and semantics. Research on commissive speech acts, discourse analysis of Qur’anic names, and the orthography of the letter *alif* in early manuscripts opened new hermeneutical avenues. Simultaneously, jurisprudence, law, and governance consolidated their place within our scope through studies on political participation under illegitimate governance, the punishment of false claimants to prophethood, and the authority of custom in interpretation, the latter notably introducing quantitative methodologies via *“The Sustainability of Social Systems According to the Qur’an: A Mixed-Methods Study.”* Issue Three also marked the introduction of quantitative and statistical methodologies through the article *“Sustainability of Social Systems Based on the Holy Qur’an: A Multi-Study Mixed-Methods Research.”*

A major turning point emerged from Issue Three onward with the integration of artificial intelligence and machine learning into Qur’anic analysis. Studies employing deep neural networks (RoBERTa) for sentiment analysis, similarity-based deep-learning approaches to Qur’anic chapter organization, and natural language processing techniques demonstrated that computational Qur’anic studies had matured into one of the journal’s principal areas of focus. This trajectory reached its peak in Issues Seven and Eight with contributions on hybrid semantic networks for the Qur’an, inference generation from Qur’anic verses through text mining, strong artificial intelligence from a Qur’anic perspective, mathematical analyses of Qur’anic textual superiority, and sentiment and tone analysis of the Qur’anic discourse using natural language processing.

Alongside these major developments, several other interdisciplinary domains maintained a steady and growing presence. Psychology and Qur’anic education explored topics such as the development of a Qur’anic familiarity questionnaire, the effect of morphological awareness on reading, semantic-psychological analyses of *ḍayq al-ṣadr* (constriction of the chest), and the relationship between faith and creativity.

History and archaeology contributed studies on archaeological insights into the angels’ knowledge of Human Corruption on Earth, comparative analyses of human creation narratives in the Qur’an and the Old Testament, and investigations into the prophecy concerning the defeat and subsequent victory of the Romans.

Furthermore, philosophy and theology addressed themes including the spectrum of consciousness, the reinterpretation of prophetic miracles from supernatural to natural frameworks, and the embodiment of human deeds in near-death experiences. Translation studies also gained visibility through analyses of lexical bundles in English translations of the Qur'an and studies of Persian Qur'an translations within multilingual contexts.

The least represented field was that of art, media, and architecture, with only two published articles, one on the transformation of Qur'anic pretexts into dramatic hypertexts and another on the conceptual and spatial dimensions of the Persian garden through a Qur'anic lens. This relative scarcity highlights a significant research gap and suggests a promising direction for future scholarship.

3. Issue Eight: Diversity within Focus

The present issue, comprising twelve articles, continues our tradition of interdisciplinary synthesis, showcasing a diverse array of methodologies applied to the Qur'anic text:

- **The linguistic and semantic domain (4 Articles):** This remains a cornerstone of the journal. Contributions explore the structural and semantic intricacies of Surah al-Nisa' regarding marriage and social building, alongside a study on the intersection of Riffaterre's semiotic theory with Angelika Neuwirth's intertextual approach to Surah al-Ikhlāṣ. Furthermore, this section includes a structural-historical analysis of the term *wizr* and a discursive, value-oriented examination of the story of Moses and Khidr, which employs semiotic-semantic frameworks to reconstruct emotional meanings.
- **Computational and quantitative analysis (3 Articles):** This domain is particularly robust, featuring research on generating logical inferences from verses through text mining, as well as an investigation into the sentiment and tone of the Qur'anic discourse using natural language processing. Complementing these are quantitative analyses of the Prophet Muhammad's interaction patterns with supporters and opponents, which offer fresh insights into the communicative dynamics of the Qur'an.
- **Philosophy and hermeneutics (3 Articles):** Articles in this category include a critical analysis of textual historicity within the thought of Nasr Hamid Abu Zayd, a study on the concept of fractal dimensions to model the semantic depth and *buṭūn* (inner meanings) of the Qur'an, and a comparative study on the methodological divide in

interpreting the prophecy of the defeat and victory of the Romans (al-Rūm).

- **Empirical inquiries (2 Articles):** This issue demonstrates our commitment to bridging revelation and contemporary knowledge. We present a metallurgical re-evaluation of the Barrier of Dhū al-Qarnayn, shifting the perspective from traditional alloy hypotheses to an Fe-Cu composite model. Additionally, this section features a reading of the "Light" parable in Surah al-Nur (Q. 24:35), which re-examines the manifestation of God through the lens of modern scientific discourse.

Together, these twelve articles represent a sophisticated maturation of the interdisciplinary dialogue we have fostered over the past four years.

4. Concluding Remarks and Future Directions

The thematic breadth of our 96 published articles is summarized in the table 1.

Table 1. Thematic Distribution of Published Articles (Issues 1–8)

The Core Subject	The Interdisciplinary Domain	Article Count
Qur'an	Empirical Sciences & Scientific Miraculousness	18
Qur'an	Linguistics & Translation	18
Qur'an	Hermeneutics & Exegetics	12
Qur'an	Computational Studies (AI & NLP)	11
Qur'an	Philosophy & Theology	12
Qur'an	Law & Governance	9
Qur'an	History & Archaeology	6
Qur'an	Psychology & Education	8
Qur'an	Art, Media & Architecture	2
Total	—	96

A review of these articles published across eight issues reveals several noteworthy trends:

- Empirical sciences and scientific exegesis, with eighteen articles, continue to constitute the journal's foundational identity and intellectual backbone.
- Linguistics and textual analysis, also represented by eighteen articles, stand alongside empirical sciences as the most stable and enduring

interdisciplinary domain within the journal.

- Artificial intelligence and text processing, with eleven articles, have experienced the most rapid growth in recent issues and are likely to play a defining role in the journal's future development. Computational Qur'anic studies have evolved from a marginal approach in Issue Three to one of the journal's central themes in Issues Seven and Eight.
- Qur'anic exegesis and hermeneutics, represented by twelve articles, have maintained a consistent, reflective, and methodologically significant presence throughout the journal's history.
- Art, media, and architecture (two articles), and to a lesser extent translation studies (three articles), require greater scholarly attention and may benefit from targeted calls for papers.

We hope that this eighth issue will mark the beginning of a new phase in interdisciplinary Qur'anic scholarship and foster broader international academic collaboration. We extend our sincere gratitude to all authors, reviewers, and colleagues whose contributions have supported the journal throughout these eight issues.