



Religion and Innovation in Human Affairs (RIHA)

Exploring the Role of Religion in the Origins of Novelty and the Diffusion of Innovation in the Progress of Civilizations

Religion, Progress, and Innovation in the Contemporary World

Science and the Human Person: Catholic, Muslim, and Secular Approaches to Genetic Engineering (\$100,000). University of Notre Dame. PI: R. Scott Appleby (University of Notre Dame)

The goal of the Project has been to bring Catholic, Muslim, and secular scholars, intellectuals, and religious leaders into dialogue around common issues faced in biomedical ethics, including their impact upon understanding of the human person. The RIHA grants program has supported Professor Abdulaziz Sachedina's (George Mason University) research on the foundations and requirements of an Islamic Bioethics. Sachedina is an acknowledged leader in the Islamic world—a figure who commands respect among both Sunni and Shi'ite scientists, jurists, and scholars. He has been one of the world's leading advocates for the development of an Islamic bioethical tradition designed to complement the religio-legal reasoning that currently informs the decisions of Muslim experts in Islamic jurisprudence, or *fiqh*, with a rational-ethical mode of reasoning and discourse informed by an adequate grasp of the science behind the medical technologies. A significant portion of the RIHA grant has been expended in providing research and conference support for Professor Sachedina in anticipation of this new work, which will build upon his previous writings and extend his influence more broadly across the ummah, or global Islamic community.

Major Outputs:

Books:

- Sachedina, Abdulaziz & Maura Ryan, eds. *Bioethics, Social Justice and the Human Person: Catholic, Muslim and Secular Thinkers in Dialogue* (manuscript in progress)
- Sachedina, Abdulaziz. *Translating Science: Bringing Islamic Bioethics into Dialogue with Catholic and Secular*

Conferences:

- *Science and the Human Person: Catholic, Muslim and Secular Perspectives*, University of Notre Dame, May 3-4, 2013.
- *The Human Person: Challenges for Science, Religion and Governance*, Georgetown University in Qatar, Doha, Qatar, March 3-4, 2014.

Blog:

- The Science and the Human Person blog series (Notre Dame) can be found at: <http://blogs.nd.edu/contendingmodernities/category/science-the-human-person/>