

Welcome & Vision

As-salaamu ‘alaykum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuh (May God’s Peace and Blessings Be Upon You),

We are honored that you have expressed interest in contributing to the Institute for Muslim Advancement and Renewal (IMAR) Research Symposium. At IMAR, we believe that ideas shape lives and that the health of our societies depends on the moral clarity, rigor, and vision of those who think deeply and act courageously. Our mission is to serve as a think tank that produces ideas and solutions rooted in the Islamic tradition, connecting divine guidance to the urgent challenges and pathologies of our age. We translate abstract ideals into accessible products through books, essays, podcasts, community programs, and public conversations that nourish Muslims and non-Muslims alike with clarity, purpose, and guidance.

This work is more important than ever in a time when research and scholarship are often trapped in ivory towers and disconnected from lived reality. IMAR takes the opposite approach whereby our work is firmly grounded in community and in the daily struggles and hopes of ordinary people. By rooting ideas in lived experience while holding them up to the highest intellectual standards, we ensure that our work goes more than just being relevant, but that it has the potential to actually be transformative in the kinds of conversations we have and increasing the depth of our intellectual caliber.

The symposium is at the heart of this mission. It is a forum where ideas are tested, perspectives are sharpened, and communities of thought are formed. The contributions presented here do not end with academic discussion; rather they are seeds that flow into the larger IMAR methodology:

Think Tank → Essays & Books → Podcasts → Khutbahs → Halaqas → Community Programs → Children’s Programs → Public Conversations → Policy & Advocacy → Tangible Change

When you contribute to an IMAR symposium, you are helping ideas travel from the halls of academia into the homes of families, the pulpits of houses of worship, the desks of policymakers, and the imaginations of our communities. You are stepping into a tradition that has always recognized knowledge as a form of worship and thought as a pathway to revival. We thank you for lending your mind and your voice to this effort.

Contribution Principles

Across all formats, submissions should be:

- Spiritually sound (anchored in faith-based worldview).

- Intellectually rigorous (well-researched, clearly argued, and properly cited).
- Accessible (avoid jargon, speak to broader audiences).
- Constructive (offer insights, solutions, or pathways forward).

Submission Guidelines

We want to make the submission process clear and straightforward while upholding the standards that ensure IMAR symposiums remain spiritually sound, intellectually rigorous, and accessible. Please review the following carefully before submitting your contribution.

Abstract Submission

- Length: 400–600 words
- Content: Clearly state your proposed topic, the question(s) you are addressing, your key argument or insight, and how it relates to the symposium theme and Areas of Inquiry.
- Deadline: November 1, 2026
- Submission Method: Via the online form at www.imar.org.

Full Paper / Contribution

- Length & Format: 4,000–7,000 words
- File Format: Microsoft Word (.docx) or Google Doc (with link access).
- Style: Chicago Manual of Style (footnotes, not endnotes) unless otherwise specified.
- Language: English. Scriptural and Arabic or other language terms may be used with consistent transliteration.

Citations & Sources

- Use Chicago footnotes for references.
- Scripture must include chapter and verse numbers and, if translated, use a consistent translation.

- Hadith citations should include source (e.g., Bukhari, Muslim) and be presented consistently.
- Classical works may be cited in translation or original language (with transliteration if necessary).

Style & Quality Expectations

We are looking for submissions that show care and effort:

- Typos should be rare!
- Acronyms, terms, and stylistic features must be consistent throughout.
- Writing should be clear, engaging, and accessible while maintaining scholarly rigor.
- Manuscripts should demonstrate a balance of spiritual soundness and intellectual depth.

Submission Materials Checklist

Your submission packet must include:

1. Cover Page with:
 - Tentative title of submission
 - Author's name, contact info, and short bio
 - Word count
 - Area(s) of Inquiry addressed

Support & Perks for Contributors

At IMAR, we see symposium contributors as partners in a civilizational project. We are committed to supporting you throughout the process so your ideas can reach their fullest potential and ripple far beyond the paper itself.

Editorial & Scholarly Support

- Guided feedback at every stage from abstract to final draft.

- Editorial review for clarity, consistency, and accessibility.
- Development support for first-time contributors or younger voices to help refine their arguments and style.

Community & Networking

- Connection with a diverse network of scholars, professionals, students, and community leaders.
- Placement into groups where you engage in dialogue across disciplines and perspectives.
- Opportunities to collaborate on future IMAR projects, journals, and public initiatives.
- Ongoing membership in the IMAR Contributor Circle, where symposium alumni continue to exchange ideas and support one another.

Publication & Visibility

- Selected works published in IMAR's annual journal.
- Features on IMAR platforms: website, newsletters, podcasts, and social media channels.
- Opportunities for expanded publication, including edited volumes, reports, or standalone books and projects developed out of symposium contributions.
- Promotion at IMAR book launches, community events, and conferences.

Professional Growth

- Gain experience presenting and publishing in an environment that values both spiritual soundness and intellectual rigor.
- Build a portfolio of work that balances academic quality with public accessibility.
- Receive mentorship and guidance from established scholars and practitioners.
- Develop skills in presenting complex ideas in ways that resonate across communities.

Long-Term Impact

- Contributions may inspire other critical conversations, extending your work into real-world impact.
- Symposium discussions feed directly into IMAR's think-tank ecosystem, ensuring your voice is part of shaping long-term research and strategy.
- Contributors are invited to remain part of IMAR's broader mission of thought renewal and civilizational flourishing.