

Supervisor's Report on Dissertation by Jakub Kolářček

Title: Islam and Ecological Crisis: Modern Islamic Environmental Discourses

PhD Candidate: Jakub Kolářček

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Jakub Kolářček's dissertation offers a comprehensive analysis of the intersection between Islam(s) and environmental issues, tracing the development of Islamic environmental discourses from the 1960s to the present. The work addresses a broad range of topics, including historical context, institutional engagements, the emergence of Islamic environmental movements, and the academic fields of Islamic ecotheology and ethics.

A particularly noteworthy aspect of this dissertation is its exploration of the plurality within Islamic discourse in the modern era. Kolářček challenges the simplified notion that fixed religious values directly produce unchanging attitudes derived solely from sacred texts. Instead, he shows that Islamic environmental discourse primarily arises from interactions with external, non-religious factors, particularly ecological challenges.

As Kolářček demonstrates, this discourse is not monolithic; it is shaped by a diverse range of individuals, including those who combine their religious identity with other roles, such as scientists, philosophers, preachers, activists, and migrants. Notably, the discourse also includes contributions from individuals who do not share an Islamic identity, such as NGO representatives and Western academics who see the potential for religion to address environmental issues.

Kolářček's analysis reveals that Islamic environmental discourse develops independently in multiple locations and contexts, rather than originating from a single, unified source.

The dissertation is grounded in the current state of the art, is methodologically sound, and is particularly commendable for its use of numerous Arabic sources that have been largely unexplored in academia.

On a personal note, I am pleased to see that Jakub has successfully completed his dissertation after many years of perseverance and effort.

Conclusion:

This dissertation represents a significant academic achievement, and I recommend it without hesitation for the award of a PhD.

Pavel Ťupek, PhD

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