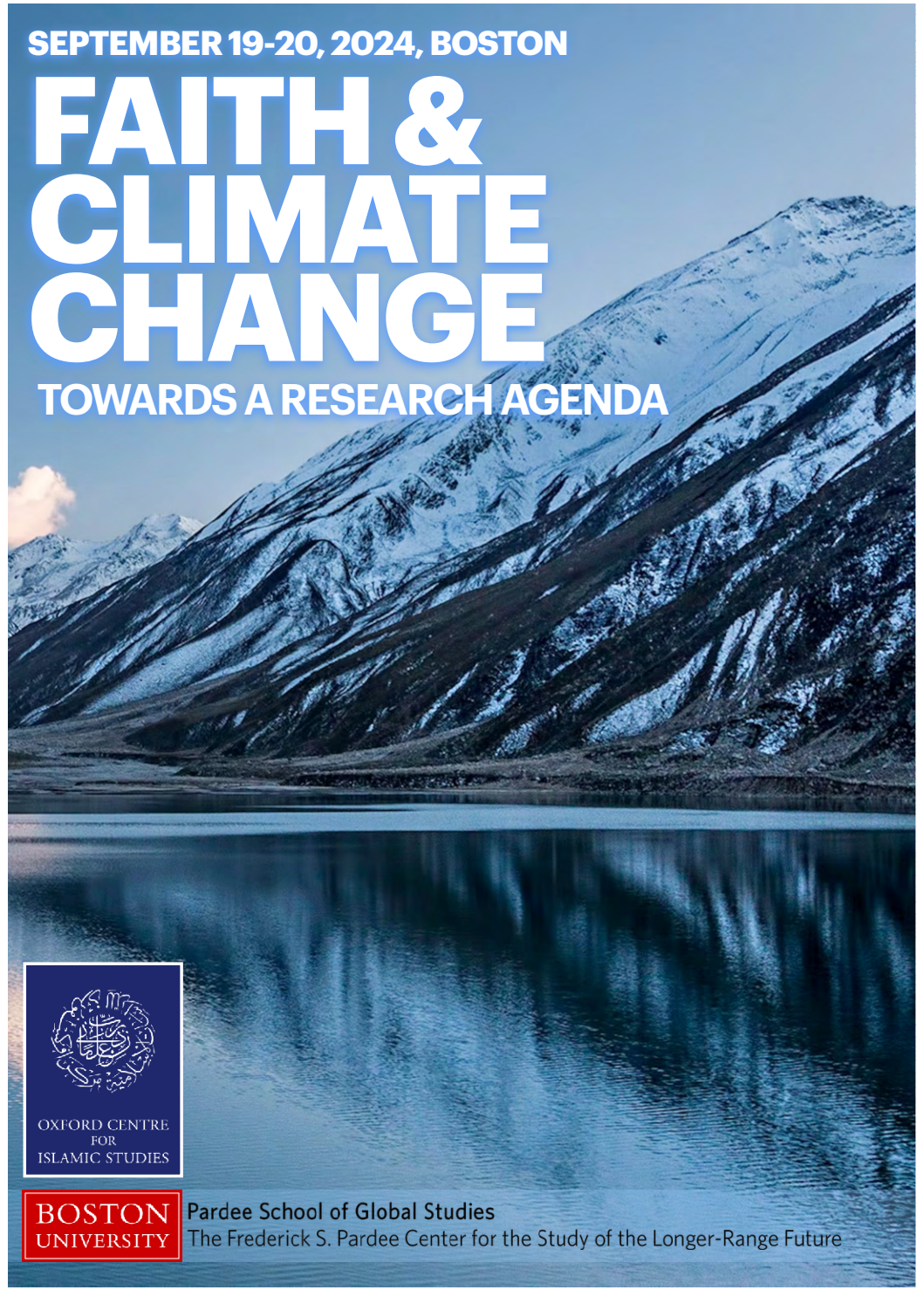


SEPTEMBER 19-20, 2024, BOSTON

FAITH & CLIMATE CHANGE

TOWARDS A RESEARCH AGENDA



**BOSTON
UNIVERSITY**

Pardee School of Global Studies
The Frederick S. Pardee Center for the Study of the Longer-Range Future



ROUNDTABLE ON FAITH AND CLIMATE CHANGE TOWARDS A RESEARCH AGENDA

Climate change is an urgent – possibly existential – challenge to continued human flourishing on this planet. Clearly, it is a defining challenge to our longer-range future as a species. So much so that it might be difficult today to respond to that most important spiritual question – ‘What is a good life?’ – without reference to some discussion of environmental values and ecological virtue, and particularly to climate change. Yet, the climate policy discourse is nearly entirely in the language of science and economics with little effort to link these to the moral dimensions of human values and behavior.

The Pardee Center for the Longer-Range Future at Boston University and the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies (OCIS) are collaborating in a future-oriented, interdisciplinary, and structured research initiative to explore the moral dimensions of climate action and the possible role of faith-based values in encouraging positive environmental and climate behaviors – particularly in the context of Islam and Muslim societies.

As part of this initiative, we are organizing two roundtables – the first was held in Oxford, UK, in May 2024 and second is being held in Boston, USA, in September 2024 – to explore the dimensions of a possible research agenda on faith and climate change, particularly in the context of Islam and Muslim societies. Each roundtable will bring together scholars, policy experts and activists from a variety of disciplines and perspective to discuss and identify a set of key research questions that might constitute the core of a research inquiry into faith and climate change. The goal of the initiative is to produce a short policy paper that identifies such an agenda and outlines some next steps towards its realization.

The Roundtable will be structured to be interactive and interdisciplinary. Participants will be asked to identify and discuss what they believe to be some of the most important and useful research questions working on which could advance understanding and action on environmental values and ecological virtue; particularly, but not solely, in the context of Islam and Muslim societies.

ROUNDTABLE AGENDA

DAY 1: SEPT 19, 2024

11.45 - 12.30 ARRIVAL, REGISTRATION & LUNCH

Pardee Rotunda

12.30 - 13.30 SESSION 1
Faith and Climate Change:
Towards a Research Agenda

Bay State Room

Shahid Jameel, Adil Najam

13.30 - 14.00 NETWORKING BREAK

14.00 - 15.30 SESSION 2
Faith, Climate, and Science

Bay State Room

*Rebecca Copeland, Saleem Ali,
John Grim, Shafiqul Islam, Munjed Murad*

15.30 - 16.00 NETWORKING BREAK

16.00 - 17.15 PANEL DISCUSSION (PUBLIC EVENT)
"Faith and Climate Change"

Riverside Room

*Ibrahim Ozedimir, Afreen Siddiqi
Mary Evelyn Tucker*

18:00 - 20.00 DINNER AND DISCUSSION

Restaurant (Ariana)

DAY 2: SEPT 20, 2024

9.15 - 9.30 ARRIVAL AND NETWORKING

Pardee Rotunda

9.30 - 11.00 SESSION 3
Faith, Climate, and Policy

Bay State Room

*Tariq Al-Olaimy, Kalpana Jain, Fouad Khan,
Mohamed Lazzouni, Zubair Shahid, Afreen Siddiqi*

11.00 - 11.15 NETWORKING BREAK

11.15 - 12.45 SESSION 4
Faith, Climate, and Behavior

Bay State Room

*Sevim Kalyoncu, Ibrahim Ozedimir,
Russell Powell, Imran Qidwai, Mary Evelyn Tucker*

12.45 - 13.00 NETWORKING BREAK

13.00 - 14.00 SESSION 5 (working lunch)
Towards a Research Agenda:
Lessons and Next Steps

Bay State Room

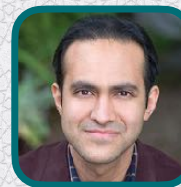
Shahid Jameel, Adil Najam

14.00 - Onwards DEPARTURES

Pardee Rotunda



PARTICIPANT PROFILES



SALEEM ALI

Saleem is Chair of the Department of Geography & Spatial Sciences and the Blue & Gold Distinguished Professor of Energy and the Environment at the University of Delaware. He was appointed by UN Secretary General to the Advisory Board of Eminent Persons on Zero Waste. Saleem's books include *Earthly Order: How Natural Laws Define Human Life* which delves into existential questions about how complex systems science can be applied to understand how human belief and action intersects with the laws of nature. His primary research interests have been in the causes and consequences of environmental conflicts in the mineral sector, and the process of using ecological factors to promote peace.



TARIQ AL-OLAIMY

Tariq is co-founder of an ecosystem of social and planetary enterprises including 3BL Associates, Public-Planet Partnerships, Recipes for Wellbeing, and Postgrowth.Earth. He holds advisory roles with the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, UN High-Level Climate Champions, the World Economic Forum, and EAT-the science-based platform for food systems transformation. He is a member of the Greenpeace 'Ummah for Earth' Alliance, serves as a Board Member for the Inayatiyya, and is advising the UNCCD and G20 GLI on faith-based engagement in land restoration..



REBECCA COPELAND

Rebecca works in Christian theology, ethics, and biblical studies, focusing on the intersection of religion and ecology. She seeks to explore theology ecologically, and read the environment theologically. Her current book project, *Entangled Being: Unoriginal Sin and Wicked Problems*, develops an understanding of unoriginal sin to address the unintentional, communal, and multi-generational challenges of climate change, environmental racism, and other wicked problems. She is a provisional deacon in the United Methodist Church and a member of its Creation Justice Vocations Working Group.



SHAFIQL ISLAM

Shafiq is a professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and a professor of water diplomacy at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. He is the Director of the Water Diplomacy Program and Data Driven Decision Making @ Tufts (D3M@Tufts). He is a Fellow of the American Geophysical Union and Editor of Water Resources Research. Professor Islam is the recipient of the Prince Sultan Bin Abdulaziz International Water Prize for Creativity. He has over one hundred publications and four books on water diplomacy.



JOHN GRIM

John Grim is co-director of the Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology with his wife, Mary Evelyn Tucker. They are affiliated faculty with the Yale Center for Environmental Justice at the Yale School of the Environment. With Tucker, Grim directed a 10 conference series and book project at Harvard on *World Religions and Ecology* that explored the ecological and justice dimensions of the world's religions. They have created six online courses on "Religions and Ecology." He has received numerous awards with Tucker, including a Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture.



KALPANA JAIN

Kalpana is an award-winning journalist and author. She is currently the Director of *The Conversation's* Global Religion Journalism Initiative and senior editor for ethics and religion. She is a member of the American Academy of Religion's Committee on Public Understanding of Religion. She worked for many years at *The Times of India*, where her reporting on public health led to numerous policy changes. She was selected as Nieman Fellow in Global Health reporting at Harvard in 2009. She is the author of *Positive Lives: The story of Ashok and others living with HIV*. She holds graduate degrees from Harvard Divinity School and Harvard Kennedy School.



SHAHID JAMEEL

Shahid leads the project on Science, Technology and Environment in Muslim Societies (STEMS) at the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies. He was trained as a biochemist and virologist, and is well known for his research on hepatitis E, HIV and SARS. Previously, he has served as CEO of Wellcome Trust DBT India Alliance; Director of the Trivedi School of Biosciences at Ashoka University, India; and head of Virology at the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB). His research at OCIS deals with the impact of disruptive technologies on Muslim societies, particularly in the context of climate, food and health.



SEVIM KALYONCU

Sevim is an environmental educator who serves as executive director of *Green Muslims*, a Washington, DC-based nonprofit working to help connect American Muslims with nature and climate action. She speaks at local mosques, leads educational nature hikes, and puts together Meaningful Watershed Education Experiences (MWEES) through youth and adult education programs. She strives to encourage a spiritual connection with nature as well as environmental awareness that is rooted in an Islamic understanding of environmental stewardship. She also volunteers as a master naturalist.



FOUAD KHAN

Fouad is a Specialist Leader in Climate & Sustainability at Deloitte and advises on climate risk mitigation and decarbonization strategies. He also serves on the Technical Advisory Group of Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi). He holds a PhD in Environmental Science and Policy and has been recognized as a UN Future Earth Fellow (2014) and a Fulbright scholar (2005). He has worked at the World Bank, WWF, Nature Research, and UNOPS among others. His writings on climate and sustainability issues have appeared in *Nature Energy*, *Nautilus*, *Scientific American*, *Dawn* and other peer-reviewed journals and popular magazines.



MOHAMED LAZZOUNI

Mohamed Lazzouni trained in Islamic Jurisprudence in traditional schools in North Africa and was affiliated with the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies in its early years. He received his Ph.D. in Physics from the University of Oxford. Currently he is CTO of Aware, a biometrics software company. Earlier, he served as President and CEO of Epochal Technologies; President and COO of Authentix; CTO of MorphoTrust USA; and as CTO and SVP of Viisage. As a national interfaith leader for the US Muslim community, he speaks across the US and has been called to present testimony in the US Congress.



MUNJED MURAD

Munjed is the assistant professor of world religions and intercultural studies at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities. He is also the program director for Eco-Justice. His research interests include Islam, Christianity, mysticism, comparative religion, and the natural environment. He holds a Master of Environmental Management (MEM) from Yale School of the Environment, where he studied religion and ecology. His dissertation for his doctorate of theology at Harvard Divinity School was entitled "A Tale of Two Trees: Unveiling the Sacred Life of Nature in Islamic and Christian Traditions."



ADIL NAJAM

Adil is the President of WWF and Professor of International Relations and of Earth and Environment at the Pardee School of Global Studies at Boston University. At OCIS he leads research on Islam and Environment as Mahathir Mohamad Fellow. Earlier, he served as founding Dean of the Pardee School and as Vice Chancellor of the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS). He was a lead author for the Third and Fourth Assessments of the IPCC. The government of Pakistan has conferred on him two of the highest civil awards for his contributions to education and climate change research: *Sitara-i-Imtiaz* (2010) and *Hilal-i-Imtiaz* (2023).



IBRAHIM OZDEMIR

Ibrahim is a Professor of Philosophy and Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences at Uskudar University, Istanbul, Turkey. He was the founding President of Hasan Kalyoncu University, Gaziantep (2010-2014) and is currently a visiting professor at Clark University (USA). His books include *Rumi and Confucius on Meaning of Life; The Ethical Dimension of Human Attitude Towards Nature; and Globalization, Ethics and Islam*. He was a member of the drafting team of the *Islamic Declaration for Global Climate Change* (2015) and of the drafting team of *Al-Mizan: A Covenant for the Earth* (2023).



RUSSELL POWELL

Russ is a Research Affiliate at the Center for the Study of World Religions at the Harvard Divinity School, where his research is on the religious, ethical, and political resonances of contemporary environmental issues, particularly in American environmental thought. He has taught at Boston College as a Core Fellow and Visiting Assistant Professor of Environmental Theology and Ethics. He earned his doctorate in the Religion and Society program at Princeton Theological Seminary and has held teaching positions at the College of the Holy Cross, Amherst College, and Princeton University.



IMRAN QIDWAI

Imran is a technology executive and entrepreneur recently focused on climate action. He has led the Clean Transportation working group of the Northeast Clean Energy Council and Institute, mentored startups through the Maryland Energy Innovation Accelerator, and overseen the implementation of Islamic Center of Boston's 70 kW solar energy project.

During three decades of engineering management at large & small public & private companies, he led the development and implementation of software systems for Internet of Things, secure ID/credentials, financial trading, mobile messaging, mobile entertainment, and online commerce etc.



ZUBAIR SHAHID

Zubair Shahid serves as Programme Officer, at the UN's Climate (UNFCCC) Secretariat in Bonn. His work focuses on capacity development on areas related to Article 6 Cooperative Mechanisms, Markets, Non-Market and Stakeholder Interaction. Prior to UNFCCC, Zubair has served in research, programmatic, and advisory roles for more than a decade at various international institutions, including the United Nations and the World Bank. Zubair holds a PhD in Development Economics from the University of Trento, where he also served as an Adjunct Faculty.



AFREEN SIDDIQI

Afreen is a Research Scientist in the Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Her research interests are at the intersection of systems analytics, design, and policy for complex systems including earth observation systems and critical infrastructure for water, energy, and agriculture. Dr. Siddiqi has served as a contributing author for the IPCC's sixth assessment report and contributed research for the UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration (UN-CEPA) on Climate Change Action and Sustainability of Natural Resources.



MARY EVELYN TUCKER

Mary Evelyn is co-director with John Grim of the Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology. They are affiliated faculty with the Yale Center for Environmental Justice at the Yale School of the Environment. They organized 10 conferences on World Religions and Ecology at Harvard and were series editors for the 10 resulting volumes. Tucker was a member of the Earth Charter Drafting committee. She won the Inspiring Yale Teaching Award and has been awarded 7 honorary degrees. With Grim, she has received many awards, including a Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture.



The Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies, founded in 1985, is an institution for the advanced study of Islam and the Muslim world. HM King Charles III is its Patron. In 2012 it was granted a Royal Charter by HM Queen Elizabeth II. The Centre is dedicated to the study of all aspects of Islamic culture and civilization and of contemporary Muslim societies.



The Frederick S. Pardee Center for the Study of the Longer-Range Future, founded in 2000, is an interdisciplinary research center of the Pardee School of Global Studies at Boston University. The Center conducts interdisciplinary research on globally important issues that affect the human condition over the course of several decades.

