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## Editor's Foreword

In this new issue of *Tajseer* a collection of diversified articles is presented, in terms of topics, and the scientific and regional backgrounds of authors. This diversity, however, does not depart from the journal's fixed and longstanding goal, which is to publish in-depth research, that goes beyond strict, specialized domains, and provides genuine and remarkable scientific contribution.

A number of these papers focus on the impact of natural sciences on social sciences-especially in relation to borrowing models, central concepts, or analytical tools. Four of these papers fall into this category. The first of them addresses the eloquence of the Qur'anic text and its relationship to the natural sciences; the second addresses the problems of inductive generalization; the third examines the interplay between physics and sociology, and the fourth one traces the process of give and take between political science and biology. In the first paper entitled: "Rhetoric and Natural Sciences: An empirical approach in relation to the Qur'anic Text--Analogy as an example," the researcher assumes that the eloquence of the Qur'anic text is not limited to the aesthetic dimension and does not stop at it, but refers-through analogy-to various natural phenomena (he referred to a number of them). The purpose of such references, according to the author, is not to provide evidence for the reality of phenomena or the relationships between them-as natural scientists do. The purpose is to draw the attention of scientists to some of the components of nature. What distinguishes this paper is that the author does not confine himself to the understandings of the first commentators and rhetoricians of the Qur'anic text, but he attempts to relate that to the findings of natural scientists in subsequent centuries. In conclusion, he points to the benefit that natural scientists can obtain from the sciences of rhetoric, and how the rhetorical expressions- so dominant in the Qur'anic text- can lead the researcher to many fields of natural sciences.

In the second article, the author addresses the problem of inductive generalization in scientific research, as well as the related question about the logical basis of the induction process. In an attempt to answer the research questions, the author compared the efforts of Muslim scholars (Al-Ghazali and Shatibi), ancient logicians (Aristotle) and contemporary Western philosophers-from David Hume and Mill to John Dewey and Karl Popper. The author believes that most of the scientists who excelled in this art have benefited from each other. Some of them transformed induction from a purely philosophical study to an experimental study, some of them introduced a new modification to the concept of induction, and some of them tried to replace it altogether with another concept, which indicates the intersection of these fields and their overlap.

The third and fourth articles deal respectively with the interplay between political science and biology, and between physics and sociology. In both cases, it becomes clear that the opening-up of political and social sciences to biology and physics reflects a real desire to overcome the state of narrow and closed specialization, and a need to approach political and social phenomena from multiple angles. Both authors tend to argue that the benefit to political and social scientists in these cases does not lie in the

direct application of theories of biology and physics, but lies in borrowing their methods, models and tools, with the consequent methodological problems that the authors identified.

If sociologists and political scientists are reaching out to the fields of the natural sciences – as we have seen – does that apply to economists as well? Is economics still a closed field? To answer this question, we publish (in English) a paper entitled: “Trends in Interdisciplinary Economics: Which Fields are Most Integrated with Economics?” The study aims to explore the interdisciplinary trends in economic research, while identifying the disciplines most integrated with economics. In this study, the authors examined about 9255 articles published in 20 economic journals from 2014 to 2023. The study showed that most of these articles open up to sociology and politics, and it was found that articles related to knowledge, innovation and the environment receive remarkable attention, with increasing interest in the branch of economic research related to health, institutions and law, which confirms that interdisciplinary research in economics has been increasing at a remarkable pace-like the rest of the social sciences.

However, the shift towards interdisciplinary studies is not an end in itself. A researcher may adopt an interdisciplinary approach but leans towards technical and formal complexities that make the field of study poorer in human content. In this context, we are publishing herein two distinguished papers, one entitled: “Taklif-based Model of Islamic Agency in International Relations: Saving Human Agency from Post-Humanism,” and the other titled: “Post- (de)Colonial Thinking and the Other Half of Western Modernity: Abu Hayyan al-Tawhidi’s Humanism in the Renaissance of Islam.” The first paper delves into the depths of the domain of international relations (its origins, methods, intellectual currents and analytical tools), but the author does not aim to borrow a concept or model as much he seeks to critique it and to present what he calls “saving human Agency, which he believes has been hidden under the rubble of rival currents and systems. The human agency that the author seeks to save is the cultural and emotional resources of societies, as these sources represent an influential force in international politics, and their exclusion leads to the exclusion of the experience and wisdom that statesmen ought to have. From this point of view, the author directs a crucial criticism of most of the prevailing intellectual currents in the field of international relations. Through this angle, the author also seeks to develop an alternative theoretical model in international relations based on a system of Islamic concepts. The second paper aims to explore alternative horizons for the traditions of Western thought and knowledge based on the centrality of Europe and its historical sovereignty – that is, it seeks to reconsider the discourse of modernity as a form of cultural domination through the idea of humanism according to Abu Hayyan al-Tawhidi.

While most of the subjects of the issue go in the direction of “bridging” – that is, crossing the boundaries between the sciences – one paper, “What are Schools For?,” addresses alarming questions posed by some scholars of sociology of education on this issue. One of the most important of these questions runs as follows: which is of a higher priority, to maintain or cross the boundaries between science? What is the primary function that the school should perform? Is it the transfer of knowledge from one generation

to another? What knowledge should and should not be transferred? What is the difference between school and pre-school knowledge and where is the pre-knowledge that students transfer from home to school? It is not noticeable that the strong boundaries between school and non-school subjects, or between one subject and another, create an identity for the learner and the teacher, so some of them seek to identify with, protect and be loyal to, so much so that that the boundaries between branches of knowledge become a condition for acquiring knowledge?

In addition to the above, this issue of *Tajseer* includes three papers dealing with aspects related to the cultural dimension in society, that is, they deal with issues related to re-looking at heritage, building national identity and the relationship of social sciences and educational curricula. The first paper in this collection is "Policies of Identity Building and the Reproducing Heritage: The Cultural Status of Diving in Qatar." Undoubtedly, cultural policy of the state inherently requires collaboration and integration among the various sectors of society, foremost among which are educational institutions. The making, restoration and renewal of national identity requires the renewal and transfer of cultural components and feelings associated with customs and traditions that constitute a kind of belonging. The author concludes by emphasizing the importance of crystallizing the Qatari narrative of history, and rereading the Qatari curricula with a historical lens that helps develop the historical discourse that addresses Qatari society in its various generations.

The second paper in this collection, entitled "Rooting the Visual Identity of Arab Medicine: Symbolic Connotations," aims to identify the identity of Arab medicine as an intangible cultural heritage by studying the beliefs, medical myths and symbolic connotations of its roots while designing a visual identity for it that contributes to its cultural identity. The author believes that Arab medicine-one of the oldest scientific schools in the world-faces challenges in preserving its identity and heritage, which calls for the need to develop a visual identity for it as a preliminary step to protect. The third paper, "Language Planning and National Security Problems: An Overview of Planning Approaches," examines the long-standing and renewed relationship between languages, national security, and international relations, and examines the role that language plays in conflict, where language itself becomes either an effective weapon or may be a means of creating empathy.

Finally, the issue includes, as usual, a section on Book Reviews and another on the Reports of activities and events carried out by the Ibn Khaldon Center. Having such scientific wealth in hand, we cannot thank enough the authors and the reviewers for their invaluable work. Last but not the least, our thanks and gratitude go to the team working at Qatar University Press for their unwavering support.

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