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Editor's Foreword

Welcome to the first issue of Volume 8 (2026) of our journal, *Tajseer*. As we embark on this year, we find ourselves at a pivotal juncture, not only in the trajectory of our publication but also in the broader academic discourse we seek to foster. This issue brings together a diverse collection of eight research articles and one book review that collectively challenge disciplinary boundaries, interrogate established paradigms, and offer fresh perspectives on pressing contemporary issues.

Before introducing the rich content of this issue, I would like to acknowledge the contributions of my predecessor and express my sincere appreciation for his unwavering commitment to the journal's mission. Building on this strong foundation, the journal now enters a new and purposeful phase of development. The journal is undergoing a comprehensive and carefully planned transformation that will continue through the end of 2026. This process is guided by a clear strategic vision: to strengthen our editorial practices, substantially expand English-language contributions, and further enhance the quality, visibility, and international impact of the journal. These developments mark a decisive step forward. By 2027, the journal will stand as a more robust, globally engaged platform for scholarly exchange, with improved performance standards and a wider international readership. We value the continued trust of our readers and contributors as we advance this important phase of growth.

Most of the articles featured in this issue are united by a common thread, which is the urgent need for interdisciplinary approaches to understand and address complex societal, cultural, and political challenges. The fragmentation of knowledge has long been a barrier to holistic understanding, and the scholars in this volume compellingly argue for the necessity of bridging these divides.

We begin with a critical examination of the state of interdisciplinary studies within Arab academic institutions. Amal Rajeh's study, "The State of Interdisciplinary Studies in Yemen," provides a content analysis of sociology faculty publications at the University of Aden. Rajeh highlights that while interdisciplinary dimensions are present, a systematic integration is lacking, underscoring the university's responsibility to cultivate a culture of collaborative research to tackle societal problems effectively.

Similarly, Chehab Yahyaoui and Faten Mubarak explore the institutional and symbolic barriers to interdisciplinary research in Tunisian universities in their article, "Knowledge Fragmentation and the Reproduction of Academic Hegemony." They argue that academic structures often reproduce narrow specialization, reinforcing the dominance of established disciplines and hindering the university's capacity to address contemporary issues. Their qualitative research offers analytical framework for reforming academic institutions toward greater openness.

The challenges and opportunities of academic bridging are further explored by Toni Kahwaji and Chadi Kahwaji in "The Reality of Bridging and Interdisciplinary Research at the "Institute of Oriental Letters." Focusing on Saint Joseph University in Beirut, they posit that for bridging to be effective, it must evolve from a procedural tool into a comprehensive epistemological framework, overcoming institutional rigidity and the lack of integrated evaluation mechanisms.

Expanding the geographical scope, Abdessamad Fadel investigates the Moroccan academic context in "Breaking Down Disciplinary Barriers". By comparing Cadi Ayyad University and Mohammed VI Polytechnic University, Fadel reveals that while interdisciplinarity is present, it is more pronounced in institutions with a modern approach focused on innovation. This study provides vital empirical evidence to inform academic policies supporting the integration of different fields.

The practical implications of interdisciplinary studies are highlighted in the research by Maram AL Hejori and Bader AL Otaibi, "The Role of Interdisciplinary Studies in Developing Future Skills among Graduate Students in Saudi Universities." Their survey of faculty members demonstrates a strong consensus on the critical role of interdisciplinary approaches in equipping students with essential future skills, such as critical thinking and problem-solving, aligning higher education with the demands of the modern workforce.

Beyond the structural analysis of academia, this issue also features theoretical and cultural critiques. Rabie Hadf's article, "From a Culture of Consumption to Sustainability Values," examines the dominance of excessive consumer culture and the resulting environmental and social imbalances. Hadf argues that the current environmental crisis is fundamentally a crisis of values, advocating for environmental education to foster an "ecological citizen" who understands the link between personal choices and global ecological stability.

In a rigorous philosophical inquiry, Zakaria Ghobrini addresses "Metaphysical Islamophobia: Deconstructing the Theological – Political Structure of Fear of Islam in the Post-Secular Western Mind." Ghobrini presents Islamophobia not merely as a political reaction but as a symptom of a profound existential crisis within Western civilization, where secularism reproduces theological exclusion. This study offers a critical theoretical framework that opens new avenues for research on modernity and civilizational relations.

The intersection of literature and history is masterfully explored by Maha Zeyadeh in *The Singularity of the Narrative Form in the Construction of Historical Worlds: The Pilgrimage in "Taghribat al-'Abdī"*. Zeyadeh explores the intersection between literature and history in her article. It highlights the uniqueness of the novel in building historical worlds by examining Bakhtin's stylistics, which refer to linguistic features and influence the structure of the novel form. The article addresses pilgrimage

as a historical form of travel within the context of contemporary literature, which can be employed in critiquing and deconstructing colonialism and in searching for the self's position.

Complementing these research articles are one insightful book reviews. Badrane Benlahcene reviews "Colonial Legacies and Arab-Majority Regions" edited by Ali Kassem, a work that critiques the enduring impact of colonialism on the Arab world. The review highlights the book's argument that Arab-majority regions are central to the constitution of modernity through a history of colonialism, calling for a decolonial struggle that re-evaluates knowledge and power structures.

In conclusion, the contributions in this issue of Volume 8 underscore the vitality and necessity of interdisciplinary research and critical inquiry. As we navigate this transitional period for the journal, we remain committed to publishing scholarship that challenges boundaries, fosters dialogue, and advances our understanding of the complex world we inhabit. We invite our readers to engage deeply with these texts and join us in our ongoing effort to elevate the quality and impact of our academic community in issues related to interdisciplinarity in the Arab region, Islamic World, and the Global South.

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