

Studying the “Other,” Understanding the “Self”

Scripture, Reason, and the Contemporary Islam-West Encounter



Saturday - April 2, 2005 / Safar 22, 1426
Hartford Seminary- Hartford, CT

Session I: 2:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Studying the Western “Other”
Understanding the Islamic “Self”

PRESENTERS:

Basit Koshul
Concordia College

Session II: 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm

Studying the Islamic “Other”
Understanding the Western “Self”

Steve Kepnes
Colgate University

RESPONDENTS:

Vincent Cornell
University of Arkansas

Yamine Mermer
Indiana University

Suheyl Umar
Iqbal Academy
(Lahore, Pakistan)

Nick Adams
University of Edinburgh

Martin Kavka
Florida State University

Ian Markham
Hartford Seminary

Sessions Moderated by
Kelton Cobb, Hartford Seminary

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The “clash of civilization” thesis posits that “Islam” and the “West” are two alien entities destined to be at odds with each other into the indefinite future. But an argument can be made that the philosophical, cultural and historical affinity between “Islam” and the “West” is so intimate that neither can adequately appreciate its own contemporary problems and potentialities without an emphatic understanding of the other. This conference will be a scripturally reasoned exploration of the ways in which an emphatic understanding of the alien “other” can lead to a deeper understanding of the alienated “self” on the part of contemporary “Islam” and the “West”.