



# RELIGION AND IDEAS ROUNDTABLE

## MODERN THINKING IN ISLAM SERIES 2019



### SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES & COMMUNICATION ARTS

Religion and Society Research Cluster,  
School of Social Sciences & Psychology,

By Dr Milad Milani (WSU)  
& Dr Vassilis Adrahtas (Macquarie)

**Presenter: Dr Maria Bhatti**

### TITLE

*The Interaction between Islamic Law  
and Secular Law*

### ACADEMIC PROFILE

Maria Bhatti is a lecturer with the School of Law at WSU. She holds LL.B. and LL.M. degrees from the University of Melbourne, and a Ph.D. from Monash University. Her thesis examined the intersection of religious and secular law through the lens of international commercial arbitration. She has worked as a family lawyer and has been actively involved in the Muslim community through the Islamic Council of Victoria and Benevolence Australia. Maria is the author of *Islamic Law and International Commercial Arbitration* (Routledge, 2018). Her research interests include international commercial arbitration, corporate governance, equity and trusts, Islamic law and family law.

### ABSTRACT

Maria's talk discusses the interaction between traditional Islamic legal thought and secular law, using Islamic dispute resolution as a case-study. Interestingly, certain traditional Islamic legal principles, such as the prohibition against interest, find contemporary relevance in areas such as Islamic finance, domestic dispute resolution procedures and international commercial arbitration. The talk examines the tensions that may arise between Islamic and secular law, and whether the two systems can co-exist in harmony. In particular, the talk will address the possible difficulties in interpreting Islamic legal principles in the contemporary world.

### LOCATION AND TIME

Western Sydney University  
Parramatta South Campus, The Female  
Orphan School, PS-EZ.1.57 (Geoffrey  
Roberson Boardroom)  
Friday, 2 August, 10.00am – 12.00pm

