

CALL FOR PAPERS

1st International Graduate Students Nursi Studies Conference in India (February 13-14, Calicut University)

Calicut University, India and The Istanbul Foundation for Science and Culture, Turkey will organize an international conference for graduate students the world over who study or are interested in Said Nursi and his magnum opus, the Risale-i Nur (Epistles of Light). This conference will bring together Masters and PhD students who are working in the area of Nursi Studies and who have an interest in learning about methodological and conceptual issues in the social sciences and humanities that are relevant to the conference's central aim, which is the development of Risale-i Nur and Nursi Studies.

The conference takes place over three days and consists of six sessions, each of which is led by an established expert in the field. Each session deals with a central methodological or theoretical problem. In each session there is a presentation of about 30 minutes followed by intensive 30 minutes of discussion. For the purpose of discussion students are assigned readings in advance of the conference which are centred around, but not restricted to, those of Nursi's works which deal specifically with the problems addressed. Students who work on other research topics relevant to the thought and teachings of Nursi are also welcome to participate. The conference aims to become a medium for the collaboration and exchange of ideas among students and scholars. Comparative studies of Nursi and other thinkers – Muslim or non-Muslims – are also strongly encouraged. There will also be programs of social events, including a welcoming reception, dinners and tours.

Prominent scholars in Nursi studies will chair and comment on sessions. The conference will run for two days, with two sessions a day. In each session six graduates will present paper, with ample time given over to discussions. Approximately twelve students will be selected to present papers by a conference sub-committee. Applicants are asked to specify one of the panels below for their paper submissions:

The papers of the conference may deal with the themes listed below:

Social and political thought

Logic and methodology in the Risale-i Nur

Conceptual and Terminological Analysis

The historical and social background of the Risale-i Nur

Theology and society

Ethics, morality and spirituality
Faith and religiosity in contemporary societies
Political economy and society
Philosophy of education
Nationalism and sectarianism
Modernity and societal transformations
Religion, politics and the state
Theories of religion
Religion and reform
Religion, multiculturalism and co-existence
Literature and the arts

Papers on topics not listed above but related to Nursi Studies will be considered. The conference language is English for presentations and discussions. Only the students (between the ages of 20-35) who are currently studying Master, MPHil or PhD can apply for the conference.

Funding is available for participants to help supplement travel and accommodation expenses.

Some Important Dates

15.06.2016 – 15.10.2016 Applications will be open via online abstract submissions on the website (<http://form.jotformeui.com/form/40193856054355>). The results of applications will be communicated to all applicants by 25.10.2016. 12 students/presenters and 5 student/observers will be selected. In the acceptance letter we will ask the students to join the Webinars. The schedule of the webinars will be provided in the acceptance letter. Attending the Webinars is required.

01.11.2016 – 10.11.2016 – The WEBINAR Meetings

31.12.2016 – Deadline for submission of the full papers (up to 15 pages, 12 font size, double space)

01.01.2017 – 20.01.2017 Paper Review Process

05.02.2017 – Deadline for submission of the last revised papers.

13-14 February 2017 – The Conference

For further questions and inquiries contact

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