

Call for Papers

East and West Encounters: The Gülen Movement

**December 4-6, 2009
University of Southern California,
Los Angeles, CA, USA**

Office of Religious Life at the University of Southern California, Department of Theological Studies at Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, California, International Education Center at Santa Monica College, California, Department of Religious Studies at Humboldt State University, California and Pacifica Institute, California are sponsoring a conference on the general theme of an encounter between "East" and "West" in the case of the Gülen Movement and the movement's contributions to education, interfaith and intercultural dialogue, tolerance, and world peace.

Objective

To explore the appeal, meaning, and impact of Fethullah Gülen and the Gülen movement as exemplifying approaches to education, dialogue, and peace that transcend and mediate traditional distinctions between "East" and "West".

Conference Themes

The following themes suggest the range of possible issues that authors are invited to address. These are neither definitive nor exhaustive:

- Impact of Gülen movement in the encounter between East and West
- Democracy and dialogue: Gülen's contributions
- Gülen inspired educational institutions
- Structure, development and finance in the Gülen movement
- Women and gender roles in the Gülen movement
- Humanistic vision of Gülen
- Gülen's contributions to Islamic theology
- Gülen's impact on the youth

and Fethullah Gülen's and the Gülen movement's views and practices related to the:

- Education in contemporary societies,

- Interfaith and intercultural dialogue, tolerance and peace,
- Understanding of the historical dynamics and references of tolerance, multiculturalism
- Approaches to universal ethical values,
- The resolution of social, ethnic, and religious conflict in the modern world, and democracy,
- Sufism,
- Teaching and interpretation of Islamic principles and issues,
- Roles and relationships of science, reason, faith, and religion.

The Editorial Board is especially interested to the contributions regarding the following topics:

- i. Contributions of the Gülen movement to the dialogue between East and West
- ii. Gülen's view of the challenges facing Muslim citizens in the western democracies
- iii. Gülen's view on *Zimmi's*: status of non-Muslims in the Muslim world
- iv. Violence in the name of God: Gülen's fight with violence
- v. Gülen's view of the clash of civilizations
- vi. Gülen's view on Islamic theocracies
- vii. Gülen's perspective on Muslim and non-Muslim thinkers and philosophers
- viii. Gülen's understanding of humanism
- ix. Social sciences and arts in Gülen inspired schools
- x. The impact of the Environment and Energy Olympiads by Gülen inspired schools and organizations
- xi. Educational transformation of African youth by Gülen inspired schools
- xii. Character education in Gülen inspired schools
- xiii. Recruitment and fundraising in the Gülen movement
- xiv. Gülen's role in the movement
- xv. Post-Gülen survival of the Gülen Movement
- xvi. Advantages and disadvantages of the lack of central coordination in the Gülen movement
- xvii. Is a Gülen inspired insurance company, *Işık Sigorta*, a new concept in modern Islamic finance?
- xviii. Mobilization of the young generation by Gülen's ideals
- xix. Gülen's views on women rights
- xx. Gülen's view on roles and rights of the family members
- xxi. Gülen's view on inheritance, equality and divorce rights of Muslim women

Submission and Publication Guidelines

The authors should submit an abstract (approximately 250 words) and biography (approximately 150 words) to the conference coordinator by **July 15, 2009**. The editorial committee will review the abstracts and respond to the submitters by **July 31, 2009**. The authors should submit papers of minimum 3000 and maximum 6000 words to the conference coordinator by **September 20, 2009**. Electronic submission via conference webpage is preferred. Authors who choose to submit hard copies are responsible for the timely delivery of their submissions by the same deadlines. The editorial board will evaluate and ask the authors to revise the papers (if needed) and resubmit camera ready copies by **November 1, 2009**. The conference organizers reserve the right to remove from the proposed program papers not received by the published deadlines or that fail to respond to the comments of the editorial board. The accepted papers will be published on the conference webpage and as conference proceedings. The coverage of the conference will be publicized on the related web page www.gulenconference.net.

All authors are also requested to comply with the following guidelines.

- References are to be properly cited in the format of the Author-Date System by The Chicago Manual of Style or similar.
- The Organizing Committee will provide upon request to the interested contributors with the electronic and printed version of several resources, such as books and articles, related to conference themes to facilitate essay writing. More resources are available at: www.gulenconference.net/index.php/library, www.fethullahgulen.org and www.gulenlibrary.org.

Venue, travel and accommodation

Conference will be held in Los Angeles, California, USA. Information regarding lodging, travel and venues will be provided at the conference website.

Travel and accommodation expenses of the invited presenters including airport pickups, meals, and organized sightseeing trips will be met by the organizing committee. Please inquire for scholarships for non-presenting participation.

Website

For further information please refer to the web page: www.gulenconference.net

Sponsors

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International Education Center, Santa Monica College, California

Department of Religious Studies, Humboldt State University, California

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