

*Abstract*

The purpose of this article is to show that it is impossible to establish a set of uniform normative preconditions which would have defined the relation between Islam and natural sciences. The relation between the two knowledge traditions is just of historical nature, which in the long run of the centuries made a large variety of settings possible to which Muslim scientists today refer if they look for a normative grounding of natural science in Islam. These settings always were transcultural in that respect that they did not originate from a specific Islamic tradition alone but were mostly performed in the network of medieval or modern formation of traditions. In the modern age settings became important which were produced in western contexts. All these modern options of scientific world views could be negotiated in Islamic terms, notions and traditions. Even skepticism which negates any validity claim of an Islamic discourse on sciences at all has been exposed as an original Islamic attitude and based on an Islamic repertoire of traditions. Today, the Islamic mainstream oscillates between theistic creationism mixed with Puritan ethical views on the one side and radical critical metaphorism on the other side.