

NEWS RELEASE



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Laurier professor to speak about Islam, modernity and science at book launch

WATERLOO – Ali Zaidi, an assistant professor of Global Studies at Wilfrid Laurier University, will speak about his book *Islam, Modernity, and the Human Sciences* during a launch event Tuesday, Nov. 8 at 4 p.m.

In *Islam, Modernity and the Human Sciences*, Zaidi argues that in aspiring to be scientific and technical, the modern human sciences stifle humanity's metaphysical need for meaning and the search for something "soul-like." By drawing upon debates in Western social theory and Muslim social thought, Zaidi argues in favour of a renewed synthesis of the human sciences that draws upon both empirical findings and the spiritual nature of social reality.

"Dr. Zaidi's book exemplifies the kind of scholarship that shapes Global Studies' curriculum," said Alex Latta, associate professor of Global Studies at Laurier. "Through his cross-cultural comparative approach to questions of meaning and metaphysics, he opens a dialogue between Muslim and Western societies. For both students and faculty, the launch is a special opportunity to hear Dr. Zaidi's reflections on the arguments presented in the book while celebrating his scholarly accomplishment."

The book launch takes place Tuesday, Nov. 8 at 4 p.m. in the Hawk's Nest on Laurier's Waterloo campus. A discussion period will follow Zaidi's talk. The event is free and all are welcome. Light refreshments will be served.

This event is co-sponsored by Laurier's Global Studies Department and the Muslim Studies Option.

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