



# European Journal of Science and Theology

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## THEOLOGICAL EXPLANATION - REDUNDANT OR INDISPENSABLE? ON MODERN SCIENCE, REDUCTIONISM AND CONJUNCTIVE INTERPRETATION

It is interesting to explore the interplay between the two explanations by examining the distinction that John Polkinghorne highlighted between explanation and understanding [2]. We can effectively explain various theories that we may not fully understand, as is the case with Quantum theory, for example that we know is effective in explaining phenomena in our world. As Polkinghorne states, “[i]t is possible for understanding to be attained without the possession of a detailed explanation”.

This stems from the conviction that understanding the world as such involves questions that Science alone cannot fully answer (as it provides only theory about the worlds), and therefore has no single definitive solution, but requires an ongoing pursuit of the best possible explanation, as Thomas Aquinas already assumed in Summa Theologiae when writing about astronomical theories

(see ST I, q.32, a.1 ad 2). As once again, Polkinghorne highlights, “Physics needs Metaphysics for its intellectually satisfying completion”.

The possibility of explanation is grounded in the belief in the comprehensibility of the world. Religion, in turn, provides an answer to the question of why this intelligibility exists. It is important to note that while explanations are offered, they do not constitute a ‘proof’, and the truth of religious explanations cannot be empirically demonstrated. However, it can be argued that theism provides the best explanation for the world as described by Science.

The question of ‘why’, often attributed to the domain of religion, is linked to the idea that, for instance, according to Thomas Aquinas, explaining something meant pointing to its purpose. One can, as Simon Oliver suggests, explain the heart as the corporeal organ responsible for

blood distribution in the body, highlighting its purposiveness [5]. Alternatively, one can describe it as an electrical activity generating mechanical contractions, emphasizing its functionality. Purposiveness extends beyond immediate explanations and encompasses ultimate purposes.

The emphasis on the ‘goal’ as explanatory resource can be illustrated by an image of construction work in a city, such as the reconstruction of an intersection with trams, cars and pedestrian walkways. To a casual observer, it may appear chaotic, with various activities happening simultaneously - people are digging, dismantling and working on the sewage system. However, the purpose behind these activities is not immediately apparent; it lies in the transcendent undertaking of reconstructing the intersection.

[...more at](#)

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### THEOLOGICAL EXPLANATION - REDUNDANT OR INDISPENSABLE? ON MODERN SCIENCE, REDUCTIONISM AND CONJUNCTIVE INTERPRETATION

**Abstract:** This article tries to address the following questions related to NOMA (Non Overlapping MAgisteria): Is the appeal to theological reasons, such as divine causation, acceptable in scientific explanations, and what does it yield? If there is no causal joint between God and the natural world, is divine causation unnecessary and irrelevant in scientific explanations? Finally, what is the nature of the explanations proposed by Theology? To answer these questions and clarify the meaning of theological explanation, this paper will first present different approaches to explanation in Science and Theology (1). It will then explore the areas where science is receptive to and incorporates theological explanations (2). The paper will conclude with the examination of whether this integration is merely an ‘addition’ or an essential element that overthrows the naturalistic perspective (3).

### CONTEMPORARY SAUDI IDENTITY FROM RELIGIOUS IDENTITY TO NATIONAL IDENTITY

**Abstract:** Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is a country that is beginning to play a leading role not only in regional but also international politics. It was in this country that the last two-day peace summit on the war in Ukraine was held. This new role is related to the huge changes that have been taking place in this country for several years, ruled by the young Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman. The reforms introduced by this ruler are not only to significantly accelerate the country’s economic development and increase its importance on the international arena, but they are also a kind of social engineering aimed at changing the Saudi identity based on religion (which, according to the ruler, inhibited any possibility of change) into an identity of which Islam is only one component. This article presents the current place of religion in the politics of Saudi Arabia and the changes that the new nationalism brought about the presence of Islam in the Saudi public sphere and the very identity of the Saudis. The aim of the work is to show the relationship between religion and politics that affect the identity of the citizens of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The article uses the method of critical analysis of sources, especially the latest reports and scientific reports. The work presents the place of religion in the politics of Saudi Arabia and the changes that the new nationalism has introduced in the existing presence of Islam in the Saudi public sphere and in the identity of the Saudis. The article deals with issues related to scientific disciplines, such as political science as well as religious and cultural studies.

### CONFESSIONAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REFORMS AND ITS IMPACT ON MUSLIM IDENTITY IN KAZAKHSTAN 1860-1917

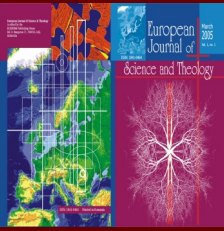
**Abstract:** The article considers the features of the reformation of education during the colonization of Kazakhstan. The study aims at comprehending the policies and practices of the Russian Empire and their consequences for the education of the Muslim population. The study proves that Christianization and Russification policies caused attempts to assimilate and control educational institutions. It is concluded that the state-confessional relations established by the Russian Empire in Kazakhstan were crucial for Muslim education. Although the Russian Empire sought to dominate the Muslim population, it faced resistance and resentment from Muslim communities. The persistence of Muslim culture and the emergence of religious reform movements were major obstacles to the goals of Russification and Christianization.

### CONFUCIAN PERSPECTIVES ON HUMAN NATURE AND TRANSHUMANISM BRIDGING ANCIENT WISDOM WITH FUTURE EVOLUTION

**Abstract:** The paper delves into the intricate relationship between Confucianism and the concept of transhumanism. While transhumanism seeks to transcend human biological limitations through technological advancements, Confucianism offers philosophical perspectives on human nature and its potential evolution. The research juxtaposes these two paradigms, highlighting how ancient Confucian values can inform modern debates on transhumanism’s ethical implications. By drawing parallels between Confucian ideals of self-cultivation and the goals of transhumanism, the study illuminates potential synergies and conflicts. The analysis underscores the importance of integrating traditional philosophical frameworks when addressing contemporary technological challenges, ensuring that the pursuit of human enhancement remains grounded in ethical considerations.

### THE ANALYSIS OF CHANGES OF DOMINICANTES INDICATOR IN POLAND

**Abstract:** Poland is one of the most religious countries in Europe, and the number of Catholics required to attend Mass in the country is regularly analysed. The Dominicantes index, which reports the percentage of people attending Sunday Mass in relation to the number of Catholics obligated to attend Mass, is used for this study. The article analyses the variability of the dominicantes rate in Poland from 1991 to 2002. The study found that over the past thirty years, the rate of people attending Mass in Poland has been declining. In the years studied, the dominicantes rate fell from 50.3% to 28%. Although it is still one of the highest in Catholic countries. The article also analysed the differences in the dominicantes rate between different dioceses in Poland. The analysis showed that there are significant differences in the dominicantes rate between dioceses. The dominicantes index between the best and worst diocese in its range differs by 42.2%. The highest dominicantes index is characterized by dioceses located in south-eastern Poland in the Subcarpatia region. This is the region of Poland traditionally characterized by the highest religiosity.



## IMPLEMENTATION OF ISLAMIC ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVE IN THE FISH PROCESSING INDUSTRY IN INDRAGIRI HILIR REGENCY, RIAU, INDONESIA

**Abstract:** Indragiri Hilir Regency, Province of Riau, has great marine and coastal potential with various species of fishery resources. The majority of the population adheres to Islam. However, these resources have not been able to improve the welfare of the people living in this area. This study aims to analyse the existing condition of the coastal community's economy in the fisheries sector and the potential for developing the fish processing industry from an economic perspective of Islam. This research was conducted in April-November 2022 in the districts of Tanah Merah, Tembilahan, Concong and Kuala Indragiri. Primary data were obtained from interviews with respondents and field observations. Secondary data was gathered from reports and other scientific publications. As many as 30 fish processors were interviewed as the main respondents. Other respondents were other business fisheries sector (10), community leaders (10), local government officials (8), banks (5), other business sectors (10), and fishermen (315) regarding their perceptions of the presence of Islamic financial institutions. Shrimp crackers, salted fish, shrimp paste and dried shrimp are processed fish products in this area. Economic analysis shows that these businesses are profitable. The objectives of the industries are designed to meet the needs and prosperity of the owners and employees. Economically, these entrepreneurs are independent and have a positive impact on the surrounding community. So far, the business has been run in line with the Islamic economic perspective. Islamic Sharia capital potential to set, where 100% of respondents want Islamic law-based capital, namely Islamic banks, Islamic cooperatives, zakat institutions and others. The Government of Riau Province has changed the status of their bank from Bank Riau Kepri to Bank Riau Kepri Syariah. This policy strengthens support for the development of Sharia in the regions.

## IS THEOLOGY AN EXPERIMENTAL SCIENCE? EXPLORING THE BOUNDARIES OF EMPIRICAL ENQUIRY AND RELIGIOUS UNDERSTANDING

**Abstract:** This paper aims to examine the compatibility between Theology and experimental science, two seemingly distinct domains of knowledge and enquiry. The study will dive into the historical background of Theology and Science, highlighting the traditional separation between religious understanding and empirical evidence. By exploring the boundaries and commonalities between these disciplines, this paper seeks to shed light on whether Theology can be considered an experimental science or if both fields serve distinct yet valuable purposes in human understanding. The article will engage in a critical analysis of key philosophical and epistemological concepts that underpin these domains, ultimately striving to foster a more nuanced and comprehensive understanding of the relationship between Theology and experimental science.

## PATTERNS OF BRIBERY ACCEPTANCE FOR CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES FROM CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS TO HISTORICAL INFLUENCES

**Abstract:** This article uses cross-country data to analyse the determinants of bribery acceptance across twenty-two Central and Eastern European countries. Particular attention is paid to cultural, religious, historical, geographical, economic, institutional, political and individual factors. After combining data from six waves of the World Values Survey (WVS) and applying logistic regressions, our results confirm the role of certain beliefs and individual characteristics. They validate that the long- and short-run influences of different prior institutional architectures are highly relevant for predicting the current incidence of bribery. Institutional quality, political and economic variables, and landlocked ness are significant predictors. These results can be a credible source of recommendations for the formulation of highly effective public policies to be implemented.

## RESEARCH AND PROBLEMS OF MEDIEVAL MANUSCRIPTS IN THE PERSIAN LANGUAGE IN KAZAKHSTAN DIGITALIZATION, CATALOGING WORK

**Abstract:** The medieval history of Kazakhstan is closely connected with works in the Persian language. The vast majority of manuscripts are written with Arabic graphics in the meaning of the Persian language. After the collapse of the USSR in 1991, Kazakhstan's achievement of independence accelerated the process of theoretical rethinking of national history. As an integral part of the state ideology, historians faced the task of substantiating the depth of the Kazakh national history. In this regard, the demand for translation and theoretical comparative-analytical work of the medieval Persian manuscripts increased significantly. Special research grants were allocated to bring the medieval Persian works' copies stored in foreign museums and Manuscript Collections to Kazakhstan and translate them. Special attention was paid to the activities of the Institute of Oriental Studies. In addition, today there are a number of problems in the course of studying medieval manuscripts in Arabic and Persian. The article pays attention to their peculiarities and solutions. The purpose of this research work is to analyse the level and challenges of modern study of medieval Persian manuscripts in Kazakhstan. In addition, the authors of the article have developed recommendations on ways to deal with problems encountered in the process of studying and introducing manuscripts into scientific circulation.