

# Paradigm Shift On Thought Muslim Women's Perspectives

Edited by:  
Dr. Solehah Yaacob



IIUM Press

# **Paradigm Shift on Thought**

**Muslim Women's Perspectives**

**Edited by:**

**Solehah Yaacob**



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Tel: +603-6188 1542 / 44 / 45 Fax: +603-6188 1543  
EMAIL: [iiumprinting@yahoo.com](mailto:iiumprinting@yahoo.com)

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## CHAPTER 3

# REEVALUATING THE METHODS OF POLEMIC AND APOLOGETIC IN THE MUSLIM STUDY OF OTHER RELIGIONS

HASLINA IBRAHIM

## INTRODUCTION

The study of other religions is a science developed by Muslims scholars for answering the Qur'anic call for cross-cultural and religious communication.<sup>1</sup> In this respect, the study of other religions can be perceived as an attempt to understand and actualize the vertical as well as the horizontal dimension of Tawāād (*äabl min al-nās wa äabl min Allāh*).<sup>2</sup>

The contributions of Muslim scholars in developing the study of other religions have always been acknowledged by the scholars of those religions themselves.<sup>3</sup> Nonetheless Kamar Oniah regretted that this science had once receded from the attention of the *ummah*, but is

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<sup>1</sup> In the modern setting this science is known as *Religionswissenschaft*, History of Religions, and Science of Religions and also Comparative Religion which has been loosely translated as *Muqāranah al-Adyān*.

<sup>2</sup> Qur'an, *Ali 'Imran 3:103*.

<sup>3</sup> Eric J. Sharpe in this regard acknowledged the significant contributions made by the Muslim scholars of Comparative Religion as he perceived their interest in the field. Eric. J. Sharpe, *Comparative Religion: A History*, Gerald Duckworth: London, 1975, p. 11.