

**PSYCHOLOGY FROM AN ISLAMIC  
PERSPECTIVE:  
A GUIDE TO TEACHING  
AND LEARNING**

*Editor*

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# **PSYCHOLOGY, CULTURE AND INDIGENISATION: AN OVERVIEW FROM THE ISLAMIC PERSPECTIVE**

*Mohamad Zaki Samsuddin*

## **INTRODUCTION**

In its early years, modern psychology developed as the scientific study of human behaviour mainly through experiments and research conducted in the West. Results and findings from these early studies were considered universal due to the assumed strength and objectivity of research methods used in psychology. That assumption was soon contested as psychology began to grow as an academic field in other parts of the world. The various theories and principles of psychology that were assumed to be universal were now examined with studies with non-Western subjects. Variations of different levels and categories were observed in much cross-cultural psychological research. These observations contributed to the growing dissatisfaction with Western psychology, which can be summarised into three paradigmatic points: (1) Western psychology's decontextualised nature, (2) its leaning towards reductionism, and (3) its potential of becoming an ethnocentric science and practice (Stevens & Wedding, 2004).

In addition to a more active pursuit of cross-cultural psychological research, dissatisfaction with Western psychology also inspired interest in indigenisation. Indigenisation of psychology is a continuous process of evaluation and revision of the philosophy and practice of psychology