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## THE WESTERN UNIVERSALISM V. CULTURAL RELATIVISM DEBATE ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND ISLAM: AN 'AQIDAH-BASED APPROACH

By: [Muhammadin, FM](#) (Muhammadin, Fajri Matahati)<sup>[1]</sup>; [Kamal, MHM](#) (Kamal, Mohd Hisham Mohd)<sup>[2]</sup>  
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### Abstract

The human rights discourse of (Western) universalism versus cultural relativism in international law becomes interesting when Islam is put into the equation. Scholars incline to either side of the debate while trying to have something in between to bridge the differences. This article uses a literature doctrinal method and does not use the 'third-person view' used by most scholars. Rather, this article uses an `aqidah approach to analyze the challenge faced by Muslim international law scholars. It is argued that inclining to either universalism or relativism is against the Islamic `aqidah (creed). Rather, the position which is correct according to the Islamic `aqidah is to take a third path, namely Islamic universalism as a way forward.

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### Author Information

Reprint Address: Muhammadin, FM (reprint author)  
 + Univ Gadjah Mada, Fac Law, Dept Int Law, Yogyakarta 55281, Indonesia.  
 Addresses:  
 + [ 1 ] Univ Gadjah Mada, Fac Law, Dept Int Law, Yogyakarta 55281, Indonesia  
 + [ 2 ] Int Islamic Univ Malaysia, Ahmad Ibrahim Kulliyah Laws, Dept Islamic Law, Kuala Lumpur 50728, Malaysia  
 E-mail Addresses: [fajrimuhammadin@ugm.ac.id](mailto:fajrimuhammadin@ugm.ac.id)

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