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Prof Syed Nazim Ali is a Research Professor and Director of the Research Division at the College of Islamic Studies (CIS), Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU), Qatar Foundation. Prior to his tenure at HBKU, he spent twenty years at Harvard University in various academic and administrative capacities. From 2010 to 2013, he served as the Acting Executive Director of the Islamic Legal Studies Program at Harvard Law School, and from 1995 to 2013, he was the Director of the Islamic Finance Program/Project, affiliated with the Center for Middle Eastern Studies and Harvard Law School. Earlier in his career, he spent over fifteen years developing university libraries and information systems at King Faisal University in Saudi Arabia (1976–1983) and at the University of Bahrain (1984–1994).

For more than three decades, Dr. Ali has led impactful and interdisciplinary initiatives in Islamic finance, strategic research development, and global scholarly engagement, consistently bringing together academia, policymakers, and industry leaders from across the world.

During his twenty-year tenure at Harvard University, Dr. Ali spearheaded several groundbreaking initiatives that continue to shape the field of Islamic finance. These include the Harvard University Forum on Islamic Finance, now in its twenty-seventh year under his leadership; the Islamic Finance Databank, one of the earliest structured digital repositories in the field; and long-standing collaborative workshops with the London School of Economics (LSE) and SOAS University of London, which continue under his direction from HBKU and have now completed their twentieth year. In both academic and advisory capacities, Dr. Ali engaged directly with global institutions such as the United States Department of the Treasury, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, various central banks, and other regulatory authorities. These engagements, especially in the aftermath of September 11, were instrumental in advancing policy-level understanding of Islamic finance.

After returning to the Arabian Gulf region, Dr. Ali has assumed strategic leadership roles within Hamad Bin Khalifa University. He has chaired and actively contributed to key institutional bodies, including the Research and Strategy Committee, the University Library Committee, and the College Shura Council. These roles have deepened his insights into academic policy formulation, research strategy, and institutional governance, positioning him exceptionally well for university-level advisory and consultancy roles.

Dr. Ali has played a central role in advancing scholarly visibility and research impact at HBKU. He has designed and led numerous academic initiatives, including the flagship International Conference on Islamic Finance (ICIF) and the CEOs and Islamic Finance Roundtable, which are now in their eighth and tenth years respectively. These platforms have significantly strengthened HBKU’s international academic relationships, expanded collaborative networks, and positioned the College of Islamic Studies as a recognized intellectual center for Islamic economics and finance in the Muslim world.

In his academic capacity at HBKU, Dr. Ali supervises Master’s and Ph.D. theses, and serves as an external examiner for doctoral dissertations and faculty promotion reviewer across universities in the United States, the United Kingdom, Qatar, Bahrain, Malaysia, and Saudi Arabia. His vision and mentorship have been pivotal in guiding and developing the careers of emerging academics and policy professionals in the field.

As a globally recognized thought leader, Dr. Ali has published extensively in Scopus-indexed journals and with renowned international academic publishers. His scholarly output includes edited volumes and research monographs with Edinburgh University Press, Edward Elgar, Palgrave Macmillan, Springer-Nature, and Taylor & Francis. His research focuses on areas such as Islamic economics and finance, financial technology (Fintech), sustainability, social and impact finance, and Islamic information systems.

Dr. Ali is a founding affiliate of the Centre for Islamic Finance at the University of Bolton in the United Kingdom. He also serves as an Academic Advisor to the Harvard Muslim Alumni Association, contributing to the biennial Harvard Islamic Finance Conference. Additionally, he co-chairs the Steering Committee for the SOAS University of London Annual Islamic Finance Events, which include a public lecture and an academic workshop. He currently holds memberships on the Saleh Kamel Islamic Economic Award Committee in Jeddah, and the Accounting and Auditing Organization for Islamic Financial Institutions (AAOIFI) in Manama, Bahrain.

Dr. Ali is widely respected not only for his leadership and academic contributions, but also for his role as a mentor and facilitator. His commitment to guiding younger generations and building bridges across institutional and cultural boundaries has had a lasting impact. He adheres to a personal philosophy of building through complementarity rather than competition, which has underpinned his efforts to develop enduring knowledge platforms and collaborative frameworks.

He received his Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) from the University of Strathclyde in the United Kingdom. In addition to his time at Harvard University, he has held visiting scholar positions at several leading universities, including the University of Wisconsin–Madison, the University of Pittsburgh, SOAS University of London, and Dauphine University in Paris.

Dr. Ali is currently concluding his tenure at Hamad Bin Khalifa University and preparing for a temporary relocation to his home in Boston. While he will continue his service as a consultant, academic leader, and advisor from there, his longer-term transition may be to Al Madinah. In line with the spirit of this curriculum vitae, Dr. Ali expresses his interest and availability to join the Islamic University of Madinah as an advisor or consultant, contributing to its academic vision and institutional development.

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16. Ali, S. Nazim. (ed.)***Islamic Finance: Current Legal and Regulatory Issue****s*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard Law School, Islamic Finance Project, 2005, 222p. ISBN 0-9702835-5-5

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**Conferences**

I have been selective in participating in academic events, averaging around ten conferences, seminars, and workshops per year. These events were held across the globe, where I was invited to deliver keynote addresses, chair sessions and panels, and serve as a guest speaker.

**References**

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