Islamic Perspectives on Cloning: Making Sharia Relevant in the Age of Genetics?
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**ABSTRACT**

In the wake of the February 1997 announcement that Dolly the sheep had been cloned, Muslim religious scholars together with Muslim scientists held two conferences to discuss cloning from an Islamic perspective. They were organized by two influential Islamic international religioscientific institutions: the Islamic Organization of Medical Sciences (IOMS) and the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA). Both institutions comprise a large number of prominent religious scholars and well-known scientists who participated in the discussions at the conferences. The deliberations that took place between Muslim religious scholars and biomedical scientists during these two conferences unravel significant aspects about the relationship between science and religion in Islam and about contemporary Islamic religio-ethical thought in general. During this talk, special attention will be paid to the arguments and mechanisms used by these two groups (religious scholars and biomedical scientists) to show that Sharia, with its dominant pre-modern religious character, still has relevance for these modern scientific issues.