

## Biodata

Prof. Dr. Mesut Idriz, a native of Macedonia, received his graduate and doctoral degrees from the International Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilization (ISTAC), International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM). Currently he is Professor of Comparative History of Civilizations and Islamic Civilization courses as well as Chair of the Department of History and Islamic Civilization, College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Sharjah. Prof. Idriz taught in various higher learning institutions including International University of Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Sakarya University (Turkey), and the International Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilization (ISTAC) and International Islamic University Malaysia (Malaysia) respectively. He was Head of the Department of Political Science and International Relations and Founder-Director of the Center for Intercultural Dialogue and Education at Hasan Kalyoncu University (Formerly known as Gazikent University, Turkey). Besides educational institutions, he was Chief Editor (Academics) at MPH Group Publishing (Kuala Lumpur). He has been a regular Visiting Professor at the International Summer School (PISU) of Prishtina University (Kosovo), teaching a special course on "Public Diplomacy in the Balkans," Shanghai International Studies University (China), and University Brunei Darussalam (Brunei). He is Vice-President of Dituria Foundation, a philanthropic organization based in Macedonia that serves towards the studies on science and culture. He has published, edited and translated numerous academic books and articles concerning the Balkans, Ottoman and Muslim history, Islamic civilization, history of Islamic education (particularly the tradition of *ijazah*, diploma). Among his books is *The Ijazah of 'Abdullah Fahim: A Unique Document from Islamic Education*, analyzing and translating into English the Former Prime Minister of Malaysia Abdullah Ahmad Badawi's Grandfather's *ijazah*. His works have been published in English, Arabic, Turkish, Albanian, Persian, French and Malay languages. His most recent books are *The Middle Eastern Jewellery Reflection of Islam on the Forms and Symbols* (co-authored with Meri Ugrinovska, 2018) and *Late Ottoman Educational System in the Balkans in the Light of the Ijazahs* (2017). He is co-editor with Osman Bakar a book titled *Islam in Southeast Europe: Past Reflections and Future Prospects* published by Brunei Darussalam University Press (2014). He has co-authored with Muhamed Ali a coffee-table book with photographs and illustrations namely *Photo Collection from the Post Ottoman Era Muslim Religious Leaders of Macedonia* to be released soon. He is also authoring a book on the conception and institution of the 'intelligence service(s)' (*istikhbarat; mukhabarat*) in Islam from the language and legal perspectives, where the proposed title is *Islamic Istikhbarat in Context: Language and Legal Analysis* (to be published in 2020).