

PRESS RELEASE

Dr. Salah Basalamah gives TII's February Faculty Presentation on translating Islam and the definition of translation is a metaphor

Doha, 25 February 2015 – The Translation and Interpreting Institute (TII) of Hamad bin Khalifa University (HBKU), a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science, and Community Development (QF), held the February installment of its faculty presentations with a lecture from Dr. Salah Basalamah that examined the reach of translation across many aspects of life, and how translation goes beyond the written and spoken word. He also put particular focus on the issue of translating Islam.

The presentation, held on February 17th, began with a focus on the theoretical aspect, and examined different definitions of translation by various scholars through history. The field of translation studies is interdisciplinary by nature and crucial to the cultural, spiritual, and socio-political interactions of a society. Dr. Basalamah highlighted the ethical aspects of translation, and the importance of understanding the context in which words are expressed.

He asserted the need for translators to act with integrity and loyalty as translation directly impacts how societies understand one another. He emphasized the need to adapt Islamic texts to Western society, requiring the work not only of translators, but jurists as well. Dr. Basalamah commented: "These talks help us to see translation in a different light and are a great opportunity for faculty members to engage each other on research and build a culture of intellectual exchange."

"What I tried to do in my talk is to help lead us towards a new definition and understanding of translation – a ramification of translation in different domains that we need to bring to the public. For example, a diplomat, an anthropologist, a mediator, and even a journalist can be trained as a translation scholar, and they would need the skills we are training our students with."

Dr. Basalamah is an associate professor of TII's MA in Translation Studies and Interim Director of the Postgraduate Studies and Research Department at TII. His research includes social and political philosophies, translation rights, postcolonial studies, as well as western Muslims and the Arab World's representation in the era of globalization.

TII hosts monthly faculty presentations to encourage a culture of learning and engagement within the community. Those interested in pursuing a Master's Degree in Translation Studies, can learn more about the TII and apply for the September 2015 intake at <http://www.tii.qa/>. The early deadline for applications is March 1, 2015.

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About The Translation and Interpreting Institute

Hamad bin Khalifa's Translation and Interpreting Institute (TII) was established with a mission to build translation capacity in Qatar and the region. Under the umbrella of HBKU and as an initiative of Qatar

Foundation, TII is situated in the prestigious Education City. It is a physical and virtual space that delivers sophisticated post-graduate translator and interpreter education, high-level training in a range of languages (Arabic, English, French and Spanish) and quality translation and interpreting services of the highest international standards.

TII will contribute to capacity building in the areas of scholarly research and translator training through its Postgraduate Studies, Research Center, Language Center and Professional Services, delivering a qualified cadre of high-level professionals within the region.

About Hamad bin Khalifa University

Hamad bin Khalifa University (HBKU), a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development, is an emerging research university building upon unique collaborations with local and international partners. Located in Education City, HBKU seeks to provide unparalleled opportunities for scholarship, teaching, discovery, and learning for all of its students through an array of interdisciplinary programs.

HBKU's partners are Virginia Commonwealth University in Qatar, Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar, Texas A&M University at Qatar, Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar, Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar, Northwestern University in Qatar, HEC Paris in Qatar, and UCL Qatar.