

# CEFREPA LECTURES

## ISLAM: HISTORY AND SOCIETY

### *What is identity/huwiyya in Islamic philosophy? Insights from Ibn 'Arabi and Al-Qashani*

Dr. Ismail Lala (GUST)

Moderated by Dr. Jean-Baptiste Brenet  
(Paris Panthéon-Sorbonne University)

In cooperation with the Global Studies Centre at the Gulf University for Technology

Huwiyya is an abstract noun from the pronoun huwa (he), and comes directly from the lexicon of Hellenistic learning. Literally meaning “he-ness”, it was the response of Arabic translators to the problem of trying to formulate a term to delineate the nature of God’s existence. In this short talk, I will give a brief history of this term, and then elaborate on how the term was adopted and its meanings expanded by arguably the most influential Sufi thinker in Islam, Muhyi al-Din ibn ‘Arabi (d. 1240/638), and then, by his disciple, ‘Abd al-Razzaq al-Qashani (d. 1335/736?).

*Dr. Ismail Lala is Assistant Professor at GUST (Kuwait). He is a specialist of Islamic philosophy. He is the author of *Knowing God: Ibn 'Arabi and 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Qashani Metaphysics of the Divine* (Brill, 2019).*

*Dr. Jean-Baptiste Brenet is Professor of Arab and Latin Philosophy at Paris Panthéon-Sorbonne University. He has published extensively on Ibn Rushd and his legacy, and most recently, a book on Ibn Tufayl's ideas (*Ibn Tufayl, Le philosophe sans maître*, 2021).*

To participate: <https://zoom.us/j/91336702388>

Sunday, 11 April 2021

6:00 (GMT+3:00) Kuwait

*This lecture will be held in English via Zoom*

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