

19TH ANNUAL MUSLIM MENTAL HEALTH CONFERENCE 2027 ABSTRACT SUBMISSION GUIDE

Grounded in the Face of Moral Injury
April 9–10, 2027 | Metro Detroit + Virtual

SUBMISSION DEADLINE	September 15, 2026
SUBMISSION PORTAL	bit.ly/MMHC2027ABSTRACTSUBMISSION
WHO MAY SUBMIT	Researchers, clinicians, students, community leaders, and faith leaders
ABSTRACT LENGTH	300 words maximum

What You'll Find in This Guide

Conference Theme • Submission Tracks • Presentation Formats • Abstract Writing Tips • Learning Objectives • Submission Requirements • Peer Review & Selection • Submission Instructions

Use this guide to choose the right submission category and presentation format, write a clear abstract, and complete your proposal with the information reviewers need.

[View the MMHC 2027 LinkedIn Event](#)

1. Start with the 2027 Conference Theme

Grounded in the Face of Moral Injury

This year's theme invites us to explore what it means to remain grounded in our faith, our bodies, and our communities when we face deep harm to our moral and spiritual core. We invite submissions that explore the pathways from injury to groundedness, from suffering to resilience, and from what breaks us to what holds us together.

Make the theme clear in your abstract.

Do not rely on reviewers to infer the connection. Name how your work helps us understand moral injury, groundedness, healing, resilience, repair, moral agency, accountability, or the conditions that help individuals and communities remain rooted in our faith, personhood, bodies, traditions, and liberation amid harm.

Possible directions for submissions

These prompts are meant to spark ideas, not limit the scope of submissions.

- How does moral injury manifest across clinical, family, community, political/systemic, workplace, and spiritual contexts, and what helps people remain grounded within those contexts?
- What roles do the body, somatic practices, rest, resistance, and renewal play in healing from moral and spiritual harm?
- What lessons can Islamic Psychology and Islamic spiritual traditions offer for understanding moral injury, healing, resilience, accountability, and repair?
- How can technology function as a source of moral or spiritual harm—and how might it also support connection, care, healing, or moral agency?
- What community-based approaches can strengthen healing and groundedness for youth, families, faith leaders, clinicians, and other community members?
- How do power dynamics shape moral injury within families, organizations, institutions, and communities? What do meaningful accountability and repair require?
- How can organizing, advocacy, activism, and collective action contribute to healing, resistance, moral agency, and community resilience?
- How does moral injury affect children, adolescents, and emerging adults across family, school, faith communities, peer relationships, and digital spaces? What developmental, relational, and culturally grounded supports can strengthen identity, belonging, moral agency, and resilience while interrupting the intergenerational transmission of harm?

2. Choose Your Primary Submission Category

Choose based on the primary contribution of your work.

Review the table below and select the category(s) whose criteria best match your abstract.

CATEGORY	WHAT THE ABSTRACT SHOULD INCLUDE
Empirical (Data-Backed) Research	For quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-methods studies, program evaluations, and other work that analyzes collected data. Include: • sample/population and setting; • study design or data source; • qualitative and/or quantitative analytic plan; • results (preliminary results are acceptable); and • clear implications for Muslim mental health and/or Islamic Psychology.
Conceptual & Theoretical Research	For conceptual papers, theoretical models, literature-based syntheses, reviews, and interdisciplinary or faith-integrated frameworks without original participant-level data as the central contribution. Include: • synthesis of relevant evidence or scholarship; • clear articulation of the new idea/framework; and • its implications for Muslim mental health and/or Islamic Psychology.
Clinical Practice	For clinically focused frameworks, interventions, practice models, case-based learning, or applied clinical lessons. Any clinical examples must be appropriately de-identified. Include:

CATEGORY	WHAT THE ABSTRACT SHOULD INCLUDE
	- the presenter's relevant area of clinical expertise/qualifications; - the basis or method used to synthesize clinical practice information; and - clear, conference-relevant implications for clinical practice.
Community & Policy Practice	For community programs, organizational initiatives, faith-based work, professional development, public education, advocacy, and policy-focused efforts. Include: - the community/problem being addressed; - the approach or program; - outcomes or lessons learned when available; and - clear community and/or policy implications relevant to Muslim mental health.

Pro tips:

- ***A simple rule for choosing between research categories:*** If you collected or analyzed original data (i.e., quantitative, qualitative, or mixed methods), select Empirical (Data-Based) Research. If the primary contribution is a new framework, theoretical argument, synthesis, review, or conceptual model rather than analysis of original data, select Conceptual & Theoretical Scholarship.
- ***Empirical submissions MUST show actual data:*** Abstracts submitted under Empirical (Data-Based) Research that don't include the data source, analytic plan, and results will be automatically rejected (except posters).

3. Choose the Presentation Format That Fits Your Goal

Choose based on what attendees will actually do.

Use an Oral Presentation or Poster when the primary goal is to communicate findings, a model, or a body of work. Choose a Community Conversation when the audience's perspectives are central to the session. Choose a Workshop when participants will actively practice or learn a concrete skill.

FORMAT	TIME	BEST FIT / WHAT TO SHOW
Oral Presentation	15 mins	A concise presentation of your work. The conference organizers combine oral presentations into panels, followed by audience discussion. All presentations are live; prerecorded presentations are not accepted.
Poster Presentation	1-hour session	A visual overview of your work highlighting rationale/goals, methods or approach, outcomes/findings, and discussion/implications. In-person and online posters must be presented live; prerecorded presentations are not accepted.
Community Conversation	45 minutes	A facilitated, audience-engaged conversation about a timely or important issue in Muslim mental health. The abstract should explain why the topic matters and clearly state the key discussion questions that will guide the conversation.
Workshop	90 minutes	An interactive, experiential, skills-building session in which participants practice a method or skill. Workshops may focus on clinical tools, self-care, research/data methods, program evaluation, pedagogy, policy/advocacy skills, or other theme-relevant approaches.

4. A Strong 300-Word Abstract: Suggested Structure

PART	WORD GUIDE	WHAT TO DO
1. Opening + theme connection	~40–60 words	State the problem, question, or need and explicitly connect it to Grounded in the Face of Moral Injury.
2. Purpose / aim	~30–50 words	Tell reviewers exactly what the presentation will examine, present, teach, or facilitate.
3. Approach / methods	~70–100 words	Include the information required for your submission category. Be concrete about your data, sources, framework, clinical basis, community approach, or facilitation plan.
4. Findings / contribution	~50–80 words	For data-based work, state the results (preliminary results are acceptable). For other categories, state the central contribution, model, lessons, or key content participants will receive.
5. Implications	~30–50 words	End with one or two sentences explaining why the work matters for Muslim mental health and/or Islamic Psychology and how it advances groundedness, healing, resilience, repair, or related conference concerns.

5. Write 1–5 Clear Learning Objectives

Learning objectives are required for Oral Presentations, Community Conversations, and Workshops.

If your selected session type requires learning objectives, describe what attendees should be able to *do, identify, describe, apply, or evaluate* after participating in your session. Use observable, measurable verbs whenever possible. Examples:

- **Identify** two factors that contribute to moral injury within the population or setting discussed.
- **Describe** a clinical, community, research, or faith-informed framework presented in the session.
- **Compare** two approaches to addressing a challenge relevant to Muslim mental health.
- **Apply** a strategy, skill, or framework introduced during the session.
- **Develop** an action step for incorporating the session’s content into research, practice, community work, education, or advocacy.

Helpful verbs include: identify, describe, compare, analyze, apply, evaluate, design, and develop.

Avoid objectives that only state that attendees will “**understand,**” “**know,**” or “**learn about**” something. Instead, identify what attendees will be able to demonstrate or do with what they learned.

Workshop submitters: Because workshops are interactive and skills-focused, objectives should reflect the skills, strategies, or activities participants will practice or apply after the session.

6. What to Prepare Before You Open the Submission Portal

To make the submission process easier, we recommend preparing the following information and materials before beginning your application.

Primary Presenter Information

- | | | |
|------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| ● Full name | ● Current profession | ● Profile picture |
| ● Email address | ● Institution/organization | ● Country/time zone |
| ● Phone number | ● Brief biography | ● Authorship information |
| ● Highest degree | | |

Co-Presenter Information

You will be asked whether your submission includes a co-presenter. If yes, please have the following ready:

- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| ● Full name | ● Institution/organization | ● Phone number |
| ● Highest degree | ● Email address | ● Brief biography |
| ● Current profession | | |

Submission Information

- **Track:** Select the category that best describes your submission.
- **Session type:** Oral Presentation, Poster Presentation, Community Conversation, or Workshop.
- **Presentation title**
- **Abstract:** Maximum 300 words. References should be entered separately and are not included in the abstract field.
- **Topic keywords**
- **Learning objectives:** Required for applicable session types.
- **References**
- **Presentation modality:** In-person or virtual
- **Poster consideration:** If requesting an Oral Presentation, you will be asked whether you are willing to be considered for a Poster Presentation if an oral slot is not available.
- **Relevance to the Conference Theme and Field:** Be prepared to describe how your proposed session relates to the conference theme and contributes to Muslim mental health and/or Islamic psychology.

Required Acknowledgments

Before submitting, presenters will also be required to:

- Agree to the conference's photography, video, recording, and promotional-use terms and conditions.
- Acknowledge that accepted presenters must submit a Conflict of Interest (COI) form by the required deadline in order to be included in the conference program.

Optional: The portal also allows submitters to provide a target audience and upload a supporting PDF document.

7. How Proposals Are Evaluated

The Peer Review Process

Peer reviewers are selected through an open Call for Reviewers and represent a range of professional disciplines, areas of expertise, career stages, and perspectives. Reviewers may include researchers, clinicians, educators, community practitioners, and other professionals whose work relates to Muslim mental health and Islamic psychology.

Whenever possible, we assign submissions to reviewers whose expertise matches the topic and type of work proposed.

Each proposal is reviewed by at least two peer reviewers. Reviewers:

- Evaluate the proposal using the evaluation criteria below;
- Consider whether the content and approach are appropriate for the selected submission track and session type; and
- Provide an overall recommendation regarding acceptance.

How Final Decisions Are Made

Peer-review ratings and recommendations are an important part of the selection process, but they do not automatically determine whether a proposal is accepted.

Following peer review, the Program and Steering Committees consider:

- Reviewer ratings and recommendations;
- The strength of the proposal relative to other submissions;
- Fit with the requested session type;
- The overall balance of topics, disciplines, approaches, and perspectives represented in the conference program; and
- Available program space and scheduling limitations.

Because the conference may receive more strong proposals than it can accommodate, **a positive peer review does not guarantee acceptance**. In some cases, we may not select highly rated proposals because of limited space or the need to develop a balanced overall program.

The goal of this process is to develop a conference program that reflects both the **quality of individual proposals** and the **breadth of scholarship, clinical expertise, community knowledge, and perspectives within Muslim mental health and Islamic psychology**.

All submissions undergo a peer-review process designed to bring together perspectives from across Muslim mental health research, clinical practice, and community work.

Reviewers evaluate proposals using the criteria below:

CRITERION	WHAT REVIEWERS ARE LOOKING FOR
Relevance	A clear and meaningful connection to the 2027 theme, Grounded in the Face of Moral Injury, and to Muslim mental health and/or Islamic Psychology.
Importance	A timely, meaningful topic with potential impact for research, clinical practice, communities, faith settings, policy, education, or other relevant areas.
Merit	Sound, rigorous, and ethical methods or a well-supported approach appropriate to the submission category and claims being made.
Coherence	A readable, well-organized abstract with a clear purpose, logical flow, and concepts that are easy for reviewers to understand.
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion	Thoughtful attention, where relevant, to social justice, diversity, power, privilege, oppression, representation, accessibility, and the heterogeneity of Muslim communities.

8. Submit Your Abstract

Submission deadline: September 15, 2026

Submit early enough to review your entry before the deadline. Keep a copy of your abstract and your submission confirmation for your records.

Submission portal: bit.ly/MMHC2027ABSTRACTSUBMISSION

Questions about abstract submissions: [Dr. Hanan Hashem — hashemh1@msu.edu](mailto:hashemh1@msu.edu)

General MMHC contact: Psychiatry.MMH@msu.edu | 517-353-4349

If your abstract is accepted

Accepted presenters should watch for conference communications about confirmation, registration, conflict-of-interest disclosure, and presentation-material deadlines. Oral and poster presentations are delivered live; we do not accept prerecorded presentations. We will communicate final 2027 presenter deadlines separately.

MMHC 2027 Abstract Submission Guide | Last updated August 2026.