

Abstract

The study seeks to reflect on the domain of « Islamic Studies », concept and content materiel. Far from what has been developed in few recent European studies on the subject where the issue of approaches to “Islamic Education” has been the main focus so that one would think of the “Islamic studies in the Twenty-first Century”, the present study confines itself to explore such a domain in rapport to its rooting in a long local tradition. The study invites reflection on its rapport to Islam, message and historical reality, to society as an order and a massive core seeking progress, and to politics as a governing system aiming at responding to diversity in languages, histories, religions & spiritualities, and gender, so that it ensures stability following the political philosophy in the “Pancasila”, which was elaborated at the time of President Sukarno. The present research refers to the “University of Muhammdiyah Malang”, well known as “UMM”, for the researcher has conducted a fieldwork over 6 months, where he combined teaching courses, presenting public lectures and making research. However, the present findings remain as preliminary as representative of the “Islamic Education” in Indonesia, as it seems to him.