



House of  
Lords



SOAS  
University of  
London



27.10.07

SATURDAY

## Islamic Prospects for Inter-religious Dialogue: The Contribution of Fethullah Gülen

by Douglas Pratt

**Panel:**  
Co-Existence and Dialogue

**Venue:**  
Old Theatre,  
LSE

Countering extremist ideology may be a problem primarily for the Muslim world, but it has major implications for, and so the interest of, the wider world. Although it might seem that it is the strident militant voices that are gaining ground in the Muslim world, there are also strong voices from within Islam seeking to proclaim the Muslim priority for peaceful and harmonious relations with the wider world, including with religious neighbours. Such a voice is that of Fethullah Gülen.

This paper seeks to understand the prospects and appropriate contexts for dialogue: what enables, and what hinders, good interfaith relations? The paper addresses the issue of Islamic paradigms for inter-religious relations and dialogue, then analyses and critically discusses the views of Fethullah Gülen. The intention is to identify a perspective that will encourage future inter-religious dialogue and enhance the relations of Islam to other faiths, a perspective indicative of transitions within the Muslim world and one that gives cause to be hopeful for the recovery of the true way of peace.

27.10.07 Panels	Parallel Session 1	Parallel Session 2
9:30-11:30	Presentation 01	
13:00-15:00		
15:10-17:00		

### Douglas Pratt

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Douglas Pratt (PhD, St Andrews University, 1984): Associate Professor, Chair of Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, University of Waikato, New Zealand; member of the advisory board, UNESCO Chair in Intercultural and Inter-religious Relations – Asia Pacific, Monash University, Melbourne; honorary Interfaith Advisor to the Anglican bishops of New Zealand. Visiting Lecturer at the Centre for the Study of Islam and Christian–Muslim Relations, University of Birmingham (2004); Visiting Research Fellow, Interfaith Relations, at Ripon College, Cuddesdon, University of Oxford (2005–06); associate of the Centre for the Study of Religion and Politics, University of St Andrews; recently honoured by the Federation of Islamic Associations of New Zealand with a Harmony Award. Among recent publications from several on the challenges of pluralism and inter-religious dialogue: *The Challenge of Islam: Encounters in Interfaith Dialogue* (Ashgate, 2005); *Identity and Interaction: Islam and the Challenge of Interreligious Dialogue* (Adelaide: The Charles Strong Memorial Trust, 2000).