

# ISLAMIC ENCOUNTERS

## LECTURE SERIES

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What makes us fundamentally human? This talk is not meant to offer an answer to this question. Instead, it will examine what ancient Greek philosophers meant by 'nature' and the reasons why this notion becomes problematic when it is applied to human beings and human affairs. It will also show that the notion of *fitra* played a key role in debates amongst Muslim intellectuals about human nature. Since *fitra* has no equivalent in Greek philosophy, it can also help us think about the complexity of the reception of Greek philosophy in the Islamic intellectual universe.



# THE PROBLEM OF 'HUMAN NATURE' IN GREEK AND ISLAMIC THOUGHT

FEB  
**11**  
4:15 - 5:45 PM

SCHOOL OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES  
Senior Common Room, Birks 100  
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