‘True Man’: The True Economic Man for Islamic Economics

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Abstract

As value-free economics is under serious attacks, Islamic economics seems to have a bright future. Unfortunately, Islamic economics is facing an identity-crisis. This paper seeks to perform an inspection on the conceptualization of the ‘Islamic economic man’ by employing a discursive method. This paper first provides a reality-check exercise which reveals that Islamic economics institution’s weak social performance originates from the absence of *homo Islamicus*. Thence, this paper searches for a universal truth about Muslims as economic agents. Surprisingly, this study has found that they are neither *homo Islamicus* nor *homo economicus*. Thus, the most important implication of this paper is the replacement of *homo Islamicus* as the basis of the micro-foundation for Islamic economics. Instead, the concept of ‘true man’ is proposed. Therefore, future research may develop the specific details of this ‘true man’ for Islamic economics to be a more reliable social science.

Keywords: Islamisation of knowledge; Islamic economics; *homo Islamicus*; Islamic social science; *homo economicus*.

References


