

# **New Horizons in Sirah Scholarship**

A Comparative Approach

Dr. Danish PUNJABI

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Hacı Bayram Mah. Boyacılar Sk. No: 14/1 06050  
Altındağ-Ankara/TÜRKİYE • Tel: +90 (312) 310 08 60  
www.fcr.com.tr • fcr@fcr.com.tr

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Ankara 2025

## About the Author

Dr. Danish PUNJABI

Danish Punjabi is a prolific scholar specializing in Islamic studies, with a focus on contemporary issues and historical perspectives. Holding a Ph.D. in Sirah Writing in the Contemporary West from the Shah I Hamadan Institute of Islamic Studies, University of Kashmir, he has contributed significantly to academia through his research and publications. Currently serving as a Guest Researcher at Ankara University, he delves into the Hindu-Muslim Polemical Literature in Modern Times, with a particular emphasis on the work of Abul Hasan Ali Nadwi. His expertise extends to the principles and protagonists of the Deobandi Movement, as evidenced by his post-doctoral research at Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt Üniversitesi. Through numerous publications, including books, articles in esteemed journals and chapters in edited volumes, Danish explores themes such as God consciousness, gender justice, religious pluralism, and the biography of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. His interdisciplinary approach, coupled with fluency in multiple languages, underscores his commitment to fostering dialogue and understanding across cultures and disciplines.

## About the Book

### **New Horizons in Sirah Scholarship A Comparative Approach**

A Comparative Approach examines the contemporary developments in the study of the Prophet Muhammad's biography (Sirah) by employing a comparative and interdisciplinary perspective. The work investigates how classical Islamic historiography, modern critical methods, and comparative religious studies intersect in shaping new understandings of the Prophet's life. It traces the evolution of Sirah scholarship from early Muslim historians such as Ibn Ishaq and al-Tabari to modern academic inquiries, highlighting methodological shifts influenced by textual criticism, anthropology, and historiography. The book also addresses the role of Western scholarship in redefining key narratives, the tensions between devotional and critical approaches, and the implications of integrating non-Muslim sources into Sirah studies. Through comparative analysis, the author situates the Sirah within the broader tradition of prophetic biographies across religions, drawing parallels with biblical and other religious narratives while discussing the unique theological and cultural dimensions of the Islamic case. Special attention is given to the challenges of reconciling faith-based readings with historical-critical methods, and to the emerging trends in using digital humanities, archaeological evidence, and linguistic analysis to reassess traditional accounts. This work ultimately aims to open new methodological horizons for scholars by encouraging critical engagement without undermining the devotional value of the Sirah. It serves as both an academic contribution and a bridge between traditional Muslim scholarship and modern historical inquiry, offering a comprehensive framework for future research in the field.

**Keywords:** Sirah studies; Comparative religious biography; Islamic historiography; Historical-critical method; Prophet Muhammad



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