

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-52871

Date: 17/07/2025

Title: *Sa'diyya Shaikh's Feminist Approach through Her Interpretation of Sufi Thought in Ibn 'Arabi*

Recommendation:

Accept as it is

✓Accept after minor revision.....

Accept after major revision

Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		✓		
Techn. Quality			✓	
Clarity			✓	
Significance	✓			

Reviewer Name: Dr **Touseef Malik**

Date: 18/07/2025

Reviewer's Comment for Publication.

This manuscript provides a comprehensive and insightful analysis of Sa'diyya Shaikh's feminist re-interpretation of Sufi thought, especially through Ibn 'Arabi's spiritual framework. It offers a significant contribution to contemporary Islamic feminist discourse by highlighting spiritual equality and gender justice from a Sufi perspective. The work is well-structured and intellectually rich, though it would benefit from clearer engagement with counter-arguments.

Recommendation: Accept after minor revision

Detailed Reviewer's Report

Strengths:

- Timely and Relevant Topic:** The manuscript deals with contemporary feminist discourse in Islamic scholarship, addressing the intersection of Sufism, gender, and hermeneutics—a unique and underexplored niche.
- Comprehensive Theoretical Engagement:** The paper provides a rigorous synthesis of Sa'diyya Shaikh's works and her interpretation of Ibn 'Arabi's concept of al-insān al-kāmil and spiritual parity.
- Strong Qualitative Foundation:** The use of content analysis and secondary literature is methodologically sound and reflects an in-depth engagement with primary sources.
- Critical Deconstruction of Islamophobic Narratives:** The article successfully challenges dominant Western portrayals of Muslim women by providing an indigenous and scholarly rebuttal.

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5. **Well-Supported Arguments:** Claims are supported with a strong theoretical foundation, including references from feminist Islamic scholars such as Barlas, Wadud, and Mir-Hosseini.

Weaknesses:

1. **Limited Critical Distance:** The paper could benefit from more critical distance in evaluating Shaikh's interpretation of Ibn 'Arabi rather than adopting it fully as normative.
2. **Over-Reliance on Secondary Sources:** The analysis is heavily dependent on Shaikh's published works; it would be enriched by incorporating more diverse voices or contemporary critiques.
3. **Minimal Engagement with Counter-Arguments:** Traditional Islamic perspectives critical of feminist hermeneutics are only briefly mentioned and dismissed without thorough engagement.
4. **Dense Theoretical Language:** At times, the writing is overly academic and inaccessible to non-specialist readers. Simplifying some passages would improve clarity.
5. **Lack of Methodological Transparency:** The qualitative design is mentioned but not elaborated in detail. A brief methodological framework (e.g., inclusion criteria or analytical lens) would strengthen the paper.