

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-52871

Date: 19-07-2025

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

Recommendation:

Accept as it isYES.....

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: Syed Mohammed

Reviewer's Comment for Publication.

Abstract Evaluation:

The abstract is concise and effectively presents the central concern of the paper—gender justice and feminist discourse within Islam—as framed through the scholarship of Sa'diyya Shaikh. It situates the study within the broader socio-political context of post-9/11 Islamophobia and Western representations of Muslim women, thereby grounding the relevance of the topic. The methodology, focusing on content analysis of Shaikh's *Sufi Narratives of Intimacy* and related works, is clearly stated. The abstract also encapsulates the core finding: that Shaikh draws upon Ibn 'Arabi's teachings to affirm gender equality in Islamic spirituality, offering an alternative to misrepresentations of Islam and women's roles. Overall, it communicates the purpose, scope, and outcome of the research with clarity and scholarly coherence.

Keywords Evaluation:

The keywords—*Feminism, Sa'diyya Shaikh, Challenges to Islamic Thought*—are relevant but succinct. They capture the core themes of the paper and are appropriate for indexing within academic databases. They effectively guide the reader toward the intellectual and thematic concerns of the work.

Introduction Evaluation:

The introduction is well-written and presents a strong contextual foundation for the study. It outlines the socio-religious background in which Muslim women are re-evaluating their roles, particularly in response to patriarchal interpretations of Islam and external Islamophobic pressures. The citations of influential scholars like Amina Wadud and Asma Barlas further ground the argument in existing feminist Islamic thought. The discussion transitions smoothly into the need for alternative narratives, such as those offered by Sa'diyya Shaikh, that challenge both internal and external misrepresentations of Muslim women. The rationale for the study is clearly articulated, and the significance of analyzing Shaikh's work through the lens of Ibn 'Arabi's Sufi metaphysics is logically introduced.

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Content and Clarity:

The manuscript demonstrates clear academic intent and conceptual depth. It successfully integrates themes of feminist hermeneutics, Sufism, and Islamic theology. The writing is clear, precise, and reflective of a sound understanding of the subject matter. The qualitative methodology aligns with the nature of the inquiry and is appropriately applied.

Overall Assessment:

This is a thoughtful and well-constructed study that makes a valuable contribution to contemporary Islamic feminist scholarship. By focusing on Sa'diyya Shaikh's engagement with Ibn 'Arabi's Sufi teachings, the research offers both a critical and constructive perspective on reimagining women's roles in Islam. The study is contextually relevant, intellectually grounded, and methodologically sound.