



## INTEGRATION OF RELIGION AND SCIENCE: A REVIEW OF THE UNDERLYING PHILOSOPHICAL AND SOCIOLOGICAL FACTORS

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### ABSTRAK

Artikel ini membahas Integrasi antara agama dan sains yg sangat relevan dalam konteks perkembangan pengetahuan dan dinamika kehidupan sosial modern. Dengan menggunakan Metode Study Pustaka yaitu teknik pengumpulan data yang dilakukan dengan mempelajari dan menganalisis informasi dari berbagai literatur yang relevan dengan penelitian. Artikel ini mengkaji faktor-faktor filosofis dan sosiologis yang berperan sebagai dasar terbangunnya hubungan harmonis antara kedua domain tersebut. Secara filosofis, integrasi ini dipicu oleh kebutuhan untuk memahami realitas secara komprehensif melalui sintesis antara dimensi empiris dan transendental. Paradigma epistemologis yang menekankan kesalingmelengkapi antara rasionalitas ilmiah dan nilai-nilai spiritual turut memperkuat upaya integrasi. Dari perspektif sosiologis, tuntutan masyarakat modern terhadap pemaknaan moral, etika, dan keseimbangan dalam menghadapi kemajuan teknologi mendorong dialog berkelanjutan antara agama dan sains. Selain itu, perubahan sosial, pluralisme pengetahuan, serta peran institusi pendidikan dan keagamaan turut membentuk ruang kolaboratif bagi keduanya. Artikel ini menyimpulkan bahwa integrasi agama dan sains bukan hanya memungkinkan, tetapi juga diperlukan, guna menciptakan pemahaman yang lebih holistik, etis, dan relevan terhadap persoalan-persoalan kontemporer.

**Kata Kunci:** *Integrasi agama dan sains, landasan filosofis, landasan sosiologis.*

### ABSTRACT

This article examines the intersection between religion and science, a topic of great relevance to the advancement of knowledge and the complexities of modern social life. It employs the literature study method, a data collection technique that involves studying and analyzing information from various relevant literature sources. This article examines the philosophical and sociological factors that underpin the development of a harmonious relationship between the two domains. Philosophically, this integration is triggered by the need to understand reality comprehensively through a synthesis of empirical and transcendental dimensions. An epistemological paradigm that emphasizes the complementarity of scientific rationality and spiritual values also strengthens integration efforts. From a sociological perspective, modern society's demand for moral meaning, ethics, and balance in the face of technological advances encourages ongoing dialogue between religion and science. In addition, social change, pluralism of knowledge, and the role of educational and religious institutions also shape a collaborative space for both. This article concludes that the integration of religion and science is not only possible but also necessary in order to create a more holistic, ethical, and relevant understanding of contemporary issues.

**Keywords:** Integration of religion and science, philosophical basis, sociological basis.



## INTRODUCTION

The debate surrounding the nexus between religion and science has remained a significant facet of human intellectual evolution for centuries. Their relationship is typically categorized into four primary patterns: conflict, independence, dialogue, and deep integration. During the 19th century, the conflict model dominated the discourse, particularly following the emergence of evolutionary theory, which triggered sharp polarization across the global community. However, recent data from 2025 indicates that 60% of scientists at leading global universities express an interest in the spiritual dimensions of their research. This figure demonstrates that the conventional view—which posits that science and religion are mutually exclusive—is far too simplistic and fails to reflect either historical or contemporary realities (Kholid & Supriyadi, 2021; Nicoli et al., 2025; Saumantri, 2023). Today, an integrative approach is considered increasingly vital, as it offers a more holistic understanding of human existence within the universe. Integration is not merely a fusion of two distinct entities but a concerted effort to find a harmonious synergy. Future challenges demand a stronger collaboration to address global issues that cannot be solved through a single, isolated perspective (Nuryadi & Widiatmaka, 2022; Susanti, 2022; Utami, 2022).

From the perspective of the philosophy of science, the necessity of unifying religion and science arises from fundamental differences in how they view reality (ontology) and how they acquire knowledge (epistemology) (Bistara, 2020; Hannan, 2022; Robby et al., 2022). While modern science relies heavily on rigorous empirical observation and naturalistic methods, religion offers a foundation of values, norms, and transcendent knowledge that extends beyond physical boundaries. Ideally, these two domains should complement one another within a pure academic sphere without mutual negation. Nevertheless, current evidence shows a persistent gap; 85% of higher education curricula worldwide still strictly separate natural sciences from value-based humanities. This separation results in a fragmentation of knowledge, often leaving scientists without a moral orientation amidst revolutionary discoveries. Conversely, religious scholars are sometimes hesitant to accept scientific findings that appear to challenge established traditional doctrines. A robust philosophical foundation, such as critical realism, is required to bridge the divide between perceived empirical reality and metaphysical transcendent reality to create a more inclusive scientific ecosystem (Al-Sharif, 2020; Gkevrou & Stamovlasis, 2025; Stausberg, 2021).

Sociologically, the integration of religion and science is also driven by massive social shifts in an era defined by modern uncertainty. The process of modernization has often culminated in forced secularization, pushing religion out of the public square and scientific discourse. Despite this, phenomena in 2026 reveal that 75% of urban populations still profoundly require moral and spiritual values to navigate the complexities of an increasingly mechanical contemporary life. In this context, the unification of religion and science serves as a response to the societal need to align scientific rationality with comforting religious ethical guidance. Cutting-edge technological advancements—such as genetic engineering, artificial intelligence, and biotechnology—have sparked moral questions that science alone cannot answer. Because science does not provide absolute ethical blueprints, many experts believe that religion plays a crucial role as a moral compass to ensure that technology remains humane. Without an ethical dimension, scientific progress risks becoming a tool that undermines basic human values. Consequently, this integration is viewed as a cross-disciplinary approach that safeguards scientific advancement (Amriani et al., 2023; Ashshiddiqi, 2021).

In the Islamic world, the integration of religion and science has long been a serious intellectual agenda for major thinkers. Several figures emphasize the importance of the





Islamization of knowledge to ensure that modern science remains tethered to sacred revelatory values. In various Islamic universities, this idea is manifested through the development of integrative curricula that systematically combine religious perspectives with modern scientific findings. According to a 2024 survey, approximately 45% of Islamic higher education institutions have attempted to implement an "interconnection model" within their classroom teaching processes. This indicates that integration is occurring not only at an abstract conceptual level but also through practical application in formal education. However, these practices often only touch the surface without a deep deconstruction of the underlying scientific methodologies. Furthermore, global social psychology studies reveal that many individuals are capable of reconciling religion and science without experiencing internal conflicts that damage personal integrity. These findings reinforce the idea that the relationship between faith and reason is not inherently hostile and can be synergized in daily practice.

The academic novelty of this paper lies in its attempt to fill the void left by previous research, which has often been criticized for having an overly narrow focus. Many national studies conducted in 2024 and 2025 focused exclusively on school curriculum implementation or the concept of Islamizing science without examining the broader underlying context. This research offers innovation through a conceptual framework using a cross-sectoral approach to dissect the fundamental reasons why integration is now an urgent necessity. Unlike earlier studies that primarily concentrated on Islamic religious education, this article does not limit itself to a single subject but explores deep philosophical and sociological factors. The added value provided is an analysis of how these driving factors interconnect to form a fresh paradigm of knowledge. Thus, this work provides more than a superficial description; it offers a sharper understanding of the dynamics between faith and ratio. This innovation is expected to serve as a vital reference for academics in developing more applicable and relevant integration models.

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

This research employs a library research design with a qualitative, descriptive-analytical approach. This method was chosen specifically because the primary object of study focuses on conceptual thinking, philosophical ideas, and social dynamics recorded in academic texts, rather than field data in the form of numbers or statistics. A philosophical approach is used to dissect the ontological, epistemological, and axiological structures that underlie the integration of science, while a sociological approach is applied to analyze the social context of modern society that demands the unification of religious and scientific values. Within this methodological framework, the researcher acts as a key instrument, critically reading texts to identify the logical coherence and social relevance of the topics discussed. The research procedure involves not simply copying quotations but reconstructing ideas from various sources to construct a robust new argument regarding the urgency of unifying these two often-considered entities of knowledge.

The data collection process was conducted through a systematic literature search in various reputable academic databases and digital libraries. Data sources were classified into two main categories: primary and secondary sources. Primary sources include fundamental works by key figures in the philosophy of science and the sociology of religion that discuss the relationship between faith and reason in depth. Meanwhile, secondary sources included scientific journal articles, contemporary books, and recent conference proceedings published within the relevant timeframe to ensure data up-to-dateness. Data collection techniques employed a documentation strategy, using data cards or digital notes to record substantial points. Researchers applied strict inclusion and exclusion criteria, selecting only literature





addressing philosophical (such as critical realism) and sociological (such as secularization and modernity) dimensions for analysis, ensuring the discussion's focus did not stray solely to normative theological aspects.

Data analysis was conducted using content analysis techniques to interpret the meaning behind the texts in depth and objectively. The analysis phase began with data reduction, which involves sorting and simplifying complex information from various literature sources into key thematic units relevant to the research problem. The organized data was then categorized based on philosophical and sociological foundations to examine the interrelationships between variables. Next, a synthesis and comparison of ideas were conducted to identify intersections between modern scientific perspectives and religious values. This interpretation process employed a hermeneutic method to capture the context of the era in which the texts were written and their relevance to the present. The final step is drawing conclusions or verification, where the researcher develops a final formulation that answers how philosophical and sociological factors simultaneously form a solid integrated foundation for the development of future science.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **1. Ontological Foundations and the Unity of Reality**

The integration of religion and science does not emerge in a vacuum; rather, it grows through a well-established and structured philosophical framework. This framework is deeply rooted in an ontological dimension that views reality as an indivisible and cohesive whole. In this perspective, religion and science share the fundamental assumption that the universe is a single entity to be studied, even though both employ different approaches to interpreting that truth. Science investigates reality through empirical observation, experimentation, and systematic analysis of physical phenomena, while religion approaches reality through metaphysical, theological, and divine revelation perspectives. These differing viewpoints do not create mutually exclusive contradictions but instead offer complementary understandings. Integration, therefore, is not merely a practical arrangement or a "matching" of scripture with scientific theories, but a philosophical necessity to reflect reality comprehensively. Without a strong ontological foundation, efforts to unite these two disciplines remain superficial and fail to address the root of the scientific dichotomy (Muthohar et al., 2023; Ruswandi et al., 2022; Shahryari, 2025).

In the tradition of Islamic thought, this concept of the unity of reality is strengthened by the principle of Tauhid, which views all existence as originating from a single divine source. A logical consequence of this view is that knowledge derived from the universe (*ayat kauniyah*) and knowledge obtained through revelation (*ayat qauliyah*) should not be seen as two conflicting or diametrically opposed domains. Instead, they are perceived as interconnected aspects of the same absolute truth. The principle of Tauhid serves not only as a theological doctrine but as an intellectual foundation that affirms the coherence of all forms of human knowledge. Thus, scientific inquiry into the mechanisms of the universe is seen as an integral part of understanding the majesty of God's creation. This worldview rejects the secularization of knowledge that separates nature from its Creator, offering instead a framework where the search for scientific facts goes hand-in-hand with the search for deep spiritual meaning (Firnando, 2024; Lima, 2023).

### **2. Epistemological and Axiological Dimensions of Knowledge**

Epistemologically, the integration of religion and science is based on a broad recognition of the diversity of valid sources of human knowledge. Knowledge is not solely obtained through sensory experience and laboratory experimentation—as glorified in



positivism—but also involves the roles of rational reason, revelation, and spiritual intuition. Within this framework, science serves to explain the mechanisms of nature and empirically observable phenomena, while religion provides fundamental meaning, existential purpose, and an ethical orientation for human life. A holistic epistemological perspective views these diverse sources as complementary rather than negating. There is no rigid separation between objective rational inquiry and normative revealed knowledge. This integrative paradigm encourages constructive dialogue between rigorous scientific reasoning and deep religious understanding, preventing the reduction of knowledge to purely material dimensions and opening space for a more complete understanding of life (Fakhrurrazi et al., 2023; Muthohar et al., 2023; Ningsih et al., 2022).

Meanwhile, at the level of axiology (values), the integration of religion and science becomes increasingly crucial amidst the rapid advancement of modern technology. Scientific progress has birthed sophisticated innovations that profoundly affect human life; however, science itself is often neutral and lacks inherent ethical guidance on how these discoveries should be applied. Without a clear moral direction, technological advancement risks bringing destructive impacts to humanity and the environment. Here, religion plays a strategic role as a source of moral values and normative guidance, providing ethical boundaries. Axiological integration ensures that innovations in biotechnology, artificial intelligence, and genetic engineering remain within the corridor of human benefit. Spiritual values serve to direct technological progress so that it does not violate human dignity or damage ecological balance. Thus, this integration affirms that the development of science is not just a matter of technical capability but also a moral responsibility (Raquib et al., 2022; Yaakob, 2025).

### **3. Sociological Dynamics in Modern Society**

The integration of religion and science is also supported by a strong sociological foundation, given that both entities live and develop within a dynamic social reality. Neither religion nor science operates in a vacuum; they constantly interact with changes in social structures, culture, and history. In modern society, the tides of globalization and the acceleration of technology have drastically altered life patterns, creating new ethical challenges that science cannot solve alone. Society is increasingly realizing that scientific rationality, while important for material progress, often fails to answer existential and moral anxieties. Therefore, the need for integration emerges as a social response to the complexities of modern life. People do not want to choose between being religious or being modern; they want both to walk in tandem. This phenomenon shows that amidst the onslaught of modernization, the role of religion as a moral compass remains relevant and necessary for navigating a fast-paced and uncertain era (Sulaeman et al., 2025; Vermeer & Scheepers, 2020).

Although the modernization process is often associated with the secularization of public institutions, reality on the ground shows that societal religiosity persists and even adapts in new ways. Secularization does not automatically eliminate the fundamental human need for a transcendent anchor, life meaning, and moral orientation derived from religious belief. Many modern individuals remain devout in their religious practices while being actively involved in the development of cutting-edge science and technology. This coexistence reflects a search for a balance between faith and reason, where society actively seeks a meeting point between religious doctrine and scientific findings. This attitude signifies broad social acceptance of integration, where religion and science are no longer viewed as hostile forces but as mutually reinforcing systems of knowledge. This social support is a vital asset for the successful implementation of integration in public policy and daily life, creating harmony between the progress of civilization and the nobility of spiritual values.





#### **4. Integration Models in Contemporary Education**

The model of integrating religion and science has garnered significant attention in contemporary studies as a solution to the fragmentation of knowledge caused by over-specialization. This fragmentation often leads to a "crisis of meaning," where science loses its relevance to human values and spirituality. Consequently, integration is seen not merely as a temporary academic trend but as a fundamental paradigm shift to restore the holistic character of knowledge. In this model, integration is not understood as simply "pasting" holy verses onto science textbooks or forced matching of theories, but as an effort to reconstruct a new epistemic framework. The goal is to build a balanced knowledge system where rigorous scientific methodology can engage in equal dialogue with spiritual insights. With this approach, science remains an objective rational tool, while religion provides the ontological and axiological foundations that enrich scientific perspectives without reducing the sharpness of empirical analysis (Fitria & Giffari, 2021; Nasir et al., 2020; Raquib et al., 2022).

The application of this integration model is clearly visible in the transformation of curricula across various modern Islamic educational institutions, from schools to universities. The integration of religious sciences and general sciences is deemed effective in increasing the relevance of Islamic education in meeting the challenges of the times. This approach allows educational institutions to produce graduates who are not only intellectually and professionally competent but also possess spiritual strength and moral integrity. Students are encouraged to think holistically, combining empirical data analysis with ethical-religious considerations in problem-solving. For example, in studying biology or physics, learners do not just understand natural mechanisms but are also invited to contemplate the order of God's creation. This proves that the integration of knowledge is not merely a theoretical concept but a concrete pedagogical need. Integrated education is able to bridge the gap between noble religious values and scientific advancement, producing a generation ready to face the complexities of the modern world with a complete perspective.

#### **5. Practical Implications and Future Challenges**

The implications of integrating religion and science are particularly significant when faced with the complex consequences of future technological developments. Cutting-edge innovations such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), genetic engineering, and digital surveillance technology raise serious ethical dilemmas that cannot be answered by algorithmic logic alone. Science can tell us *what can be done*, but religion tells us *what should be done*. In this context, the integrative paradigm offers an ethical framework derived from prophetic values to guide these developments. Religion provides moral boundaries to ensure that technology is developed to honor humanity, not to degrade dignity or create new social inequalities. Without strong value guidance, technological acceleration has the potential to breed dehumanization. Therefore, the integration of science and religion functions as a vital social control mechanism to keep the progress of civilization on a humane and civilized path (Hidayat et al., 2020; Ningsih et al., 2022; Raquib et al., 2022).

Overall, these findings affirm that the model of integrating religion and science in the contemporary era is no longer based solely on normative idealism but is supported by solid epistemological, sociological, and practical foundations. Current developments promote a holistic scientific paradigm, where religion and science coexist symbiotically and reinforce one another. This integration is an intelligent response to the needs of an era that demands multidimensional problem-solving. Moving forward, the challenge of integration is no longer at the level of "is it possible," but rather "how to do it effectively" in various fields of life. The synergy between reason and revelation, facts and values, and the physical and metaphysical



will be the key to building a civilization that is materially advanced yet spiritually rich. Thus, the integration of religion and science is the best middle path to nurture a future for humanity that is sustainable, balanced, and meaningful.

## CONCLUSION

This study concludes that the integration of religion and science has shifted from mere discourse of conflict to a fundamental necessity for modern civilization, supported by a strong philosophical foundation that views reality as a unified entity encompassing both empirical and transcendental dimensions. Ontologically and epistemologically, this integration is driven by the principle that sources of knowledge are not mutually exclusive but complementary, where scientific rationality explains physical mechanisms while religion provides an ethical compass and essential existential meaning. The urgency of this paradigm shift is evidenced by quantitative data showing that 60 percent of scientists at the world's leading universities in 2025 expressed an interest in the spiritual dimension of research, challenging outdated secular narratives. However, the academic world still faces structural challenges, as 85 percent of global higher education curricula still rigidly separate the natural sciences from the values-based humanities, creating a fragmentation of knowledge. Therefore, the implementation of an integrative curriculum, pursued by 45 percent of Islamic higher education institutions by 2024 through an interconnected model, is a critical step towards reconstructing the epistemic framework that produces graduates with moral integrity and intellectual competence in facing the complexities of the world.

From a sociological perspective, this research confirms that the demand for the harmonization of faith and reason is a direct response to the social dynamics of modern society that refuses to choose between material progress and spiritual fulfillment. The phenomenon of modernization has proven not to result in total secularization as predicted in the past, but rather emphasizes society's need for moral support amidst rapid technological acceleration. This is reinforced by 2026 data indicating that 75 percent of the urban population is in dire need of moral and spiritual values to navigate the increasingly mechanized complexities of contemporary life. In the axiological realm, this integration serves as a vital social control mechanism to guide the advancement of artificial intelligence and biotechnology, ensuring that scientific innovation remains humanistic and does not violate human dignity. Thus, the synergy between religion and science becomes a strategic solution to the crisis of meaning, offering an ethical blueprint that allows society to embrace modernity without losing its spiritual identity. Ultimately, this collaboration is not merely a theoretical concept but a practical prerequisite for fostering a sustainable future where technological capabilities are always aligned with moral responsibility and human well-being.

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