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# Exploring Innovative Work Behaviour Values of Lecturers in the Islamic University in Indonesia

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#### Info Artikel

# **Keywords:**

Innovative Work Behaviour; Islamic University; Islamic work ethic; Affective commitment; Lecturers' performance.

#### **Abstract**

This study examines the impact of Islamic work ethic, affective commitment, normative commitment, and high-performance work systems on lecturers' performance at 122 State Islamic Universities, 60 Private Islamic Universities, and five private non-Islamic Universities in Indonesia, with a focus on gender differences to enhance the generalizability and accuracy of the findings. Employing the Structural Equation Model Partial Least Squares (SEM-PLS) method, the study tests whether innovative work behaviour mediates these factors. The results reveal that the R-squared value is 0.753. This method reflects that the exogenous variables of Islamic work ethic, affective commitment, and high-performance work system significantly influence innovative work behaviour by 75.3%. However, further findings revealed that the affective commitment of male lecturers does not affect their innovative work behaviour, resulting in reduced innovation and suboptimal performance. Additionally, innovative work behaviour mediates the relationship between Islamic work ethic, affective commitment, high-performance work systems, and lecturers' performance, but not with normative commitment. This plenary paper offers original insights by exploring innovative work behaviour from a gender perspective, a topic that has not been widely covered in previous studies. The research suggests that Islamic Universities should consider gender differences as they promote innovative work behaviours and adopt gender-specific strategies to enhance lecturers' performance. These considerations could foster a more creative and productive work environment. Implications: The study highlights the need for a gender-specific approach to promote innovation and improve lecturers' performance. Further research could explore other factors influencing performance in different cultural and organizational contexts.

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#### Kata Kunci:

# Perilaku Kerja Inovatif; Universitas Islam; Etos kerja Islami; Komitmen afektif Kinerja dosen.

#### Abstrak.

Penelitian ini menguji pengaruh dari etos kerja Islami, komitmen afektif, komitmen normatif, dan sistem kerja berkinerja tinggi terhadap kinerja dosen di 122 Perguruan Tinggi Islam Negeri, 60 Perguruan Tinggi Islam Swasta, dan 5 Perguruan Tinggi Non-Islam Swasta di Indonesia, dengan fokus pada perbedaan gender sebagai generalisasi dan keakurasian temuan. Dengan menggunakan metode Structural Equation Model Partial Least Square (SEM-PLS), penelitian ini menguji apakah perilaku kerja inovatif memediasi faktor-faktor tersebut. Temuan menunjukkan bahwa nilai R² adalah sebesar 0,753. Ini mencerminkan variabel eksogen etos kerja Islami, komitmen afektif, dan sistem kerja berkinerja tinggi secara signifikan mempengaruhi perilaku kerja inovatif sebesar 75,3%. Namun temuan lebih jauh menemukan bahwa, komitmen afektif dosen laki-laki tidak mempengaruhi perilaku kerja inovatif memediasi hubungan antara etika kerja Islam, komitmen afektif, sistem kerja berkinerja tinggi, dan kinerja dosen, tetapi tidak dengan komitmen normatif. Penelitian ini

memberikan kontribusi wawasan original dengan mengeksplorasi perilaku kerja inovatif dari perspektif gender, yang tidak banyak dibahas dalam penelitian sebelumnya. Penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa Perguruan Tinggi Islam perlu mempertimbangkan perbedaan gender ketika mempromosikan perilaku kerja inovatif dan mengadopsi strategi spesifik gender untuk meningkatkan kinerja dosen. Pertimbangan ini dapat mendorong lingkungan kerja yang lebih inovatif dan produktif di seluruh institusi.

#### **INTRODUCTION**

In the modern era, lecturers in Islamic universities must adapt teaching methods and manage performance effectively. (Armstrong, 2022; Cardy & Leonard, 2014; Djalilah et al., 2024; S. Fernandez et al., 2010; Forcher et al., 2022). Innovative work behaviour (IWB) has become essential for sustained performance. (Atho'Illah & Yudha, 2022; Fauzi, 2015; Firmansah et al., 2023). However, its relationship with Islamic work ethic, affective commitment, and high-performance work systems remains underexplored in Islamic higher education. (Chatterjee & Correia, 2020; Ferine et al., 2021; Houck et al., 2012; Zakariya & Yudha, 2024).

Notably, gender differences in workload management further complicate how lecturers engage in innovative work behaviour and achieve performance outcomes. (Bai et al., 2022; J. P. J. De Jong & Den Hartog, 2007; Forcher et al., 2022; Yudha & Haryono, 2024). The Islamic work ethic, grounded in sincerity and intention, drives the discovery, development, support, and implementation of ideas. Affective commitment and high-performance work systems also foster innovative work behaviour, enhancing performance outcomes. (Etherton et al., 2022; Gu et al., 2023; Ivantri et al., 2024; Yudha & Basya, 2024). The varying capacities of male and female lecturers in handling responsibilities affect their engagement in innovative practices. (Afiq & Yudha, 2023; Fuad et al., 2022; Indayanti et al., 2022; Widiyanto et al., 2022).

Islamic universities offer a unique setting for exploring the intersection between Islamic values and innovation. (Athaya, 2022; Azkiya et al., 2024; Jannah et al., 2023; Lin, 2022; Syamsuar et al., 2023). Lecturers in these institutions are expected to integrate ethics with professional excellence. (Arifin et al., 2023; Ma'arif et al., 2022; Szeto, 2020; Yalina et al., 2020). This study investigates how the Islamic work ethic, affective commitment, and high-performance work systems affect lecturers' performance by mediating innovative work behaviour while considering gender differences. Past research has linked these factors to innovative work behaviour, yet little is known about the joint mediating effects of these factors or gender-based differences. To address this gap, this article attempts to elucidate the role of gender and innovative work behaviour in achieving performance outcomes.

The research hypothesises that Islamic work ethic, affective commitment, and high-performance work systems positively influence lecturers' performance through innovative work behaviour. It also posits that gender moderates the relationship between innovative work behaviour and performance. The novelty of this study lies in its combination of these elements and its emphasis on gender-specific insights in Islamic higher education. The findings aim to enhance understanding of gender-sensitive approaches to fostering innovation and improving performance, providing theoretical and practical contributions for academic leaders and policymakers.

#### **METHODS**

A quantitative approach is a method aiming to generalise. In line with earlier studies, this research employs a quantitative questionnaire approach. The variables of the research consisted of one exogenous variable of Teaching Staff Performance (Y), one mediating variable of Innovative Work Behaviour (Z), and four exogenous variables of Islamic Work Ethics (X1), Affective Commitment (X2), Normative Commitment (X3), and High-Performance Work System (X4). The data analysis utilised SEM-PLS (Structural Equation Modelling Partial Least Squares) (Ab Talib et

al., 2017; Goranda et al., 2021; Jeff et al., 2015; Svensson, 2015). Several sectors employed this statistical software, e.g., marketing, business, and management. (Ursachi et al., 2015; Wijayanti et al., 2021). PLS path modelling tests the direct and indirect relationships between independent and dependent variables. The following variables are described in Table 1, along with their corresponding indicators.

The data collection technique and instrument used in this research were selected purposively. The data collection criteria are as follows: First, as stated by (Hair Jr. et al., 2019)The number of data points was 5–10 times that of indicators, whereas the number of indicators in this research is 17. Therefore, the total number of samples required to obtain a minimum representative assessment and result is 85 to 170 respondents.

There were 187 respondents spread across all Islamic universities in Indonesia. The respondents were all lecturers: 122 from PTKIN, 60 from PTKIS, and five from private non-Islamic Universities (PTKNIS). The demographic profile of respondents in this study reveals a nearly balanced gender distribution, with 52.0% female and 48.0% male respondents. The age distribution was dominated by the 25–40 year age range, which accounted for 97.7% of the respondents, while the percentage of respondents above 40 years was very low. Based on marital status, most respondents (84.0%) were married, reflecting the potential influence of family dynamics on work behaviour and performance.

Most respondents were geographically spread across Indonesia, with the most potent concentrations in East Java (42.0%) and South Sumatra (21.3%), followed by other regions, including West Sumatra and East Kalimantan, which accounted for 6.7% each. Education-wise, most respondents held a Master's degree (93.3%), with a small proportion (6.7%) holding a Doctorate. Most respondents reported working at State Islamic Religious Universities (PTKIN) (65.3%), while the remainder were at Private Islamic Religious Universities (PTKIS) (32.0%), and a small proportion worked at private non-Islamic Religious Universities (2.7%). The majority had work experience ranging from 6 to 10 years (53.3%), with 42.7% having less than 5 years of work experience, indicating a relatively young and dynamic workforce in Islamic higher education institutions.

#### Measurement

**Table 1.** Questionnaire Items

Variable	Code		Indicator Item	Source
Islamic Work	IWE1	1	Hard work is one of the responsibilities in	(Firmansah et al.,
Ethic (IWE)			the workplace	2023)
	IWE2	2	Good deeds can be achieved through sincere devotion to work	
	IWE3	3	I believe my kindness to myself and others	
			results from working sincerely and cooperatively.	
Affective Commitment	AC1	4	There is an emotional attachment between me and the organisation I work for	(Firmansah et al., 2023; Yudha et al.,
(AC)	AC2	5	My sense of belonging makes me feel obligated to solve problems in my workplace.	2020)
	AC3	6	My workplace and the organisation within feel like my own family	
Normative	NC1	7	I feel like I have responsibilities when I am	(Colak et al.,
Commitment			part of this institution	2022; Salahudin

Variable	Code		Indicator Item	Source
(NC)	NC2	8	Devoting myself to this institution will	et al., 2016)
			bring me many material and intangible benefits.	
	NC3	9	This institution deserves loyalty from all	
			employees	
	NC4	10	I would feel guilty if I left this institution	
High-	HPWSs1	11	I believe the compensation I receive for	(Escribá-Carda et
Performance	LIDWIC O	10	my performance is fair	al., 2017; Ryu,
Works System	HPWSs2	12	My workplace and the board of executives	2018)
(HPWS)			support my career growth through upskilling, providing workshops, training,	
			and other valuable resources.	
	HPWSs3	13	The institution's strategic decision-making	
			process always involves all organic	
			elements.	
	HPWSs4	14	Social safety nets and insurance are rights	
Innovative	IWB1	15	provided to us by the workplace.  We continually seek and develop new	(Eigmanach at al
Work	IWDI	13	ideas and innovations to enhance	(Firmansah et al., 2023; Sarmawa et
Behaviour			performance and improve the	al., 2022)
(IWB)			organisation's quality.	, ,
	IWB2	16	Support and approval from colleagues and	
			leaders are essential for generating	
	TW/D2	17	innovative ideas.	
	IWB3	17	I try to introduce innovative ideas into work with systematic ideas (idea	
			realisation)	
Teaching	EP1	18	I maintain discipline in attendance and	(Ariyani &
Staff			productivity, aligning with my work	Hidayati, 2018;
Performance			achievements.	Hudaefi &
(TSP)	EP2	19	Day by day, I feel my durability and	Jaswir, 2019;
	EP3	20	tenacity at work are improving	Sarmawa et al.,
	EP3 EP4	21	All my work is accountable Creativity and work initiatives are	2022)
	1.17	<b>∠</b> 1	increasingly emerging alongside increased	
			work duties and responsibilities.	

# **RESULT and DISCUSSION**

#### Result

# **Respondent Profiles**

The data were collected from 187 general participants. A total of 187 respondents were successfully recruited, primarily to ensure validity and objectivity. Data were gathered from an online survey utilising Google Forms as the survey instrument. As mentioned earlier, the identification of respondents was conducted using specific criteria. The primary criterion for this study was that the respondents were Islamic University lecturers from various regions in Indonesia, as the research focused on Islamic work ethics and their impact on the lecturers.

Secondly, regardless of which institution the respondents work at, as long as they are registered as lecturers at Islamic Universities in all regions of Indonesia, they are permitted to

participate as respondents. Both are the main criteria; hence, all respondents who did not fall into these categories were excluded from the research.

Table 2. Respondents' Profiles

Table 2. Respondents Fromes								
Items	Quantity (people)	Percentage						
Gender	(реорге)							
Female	97	52.0%						
Male	90	48.0%						
Age Range		10.070						
<25	0	0.0%						
25-40	185	9.7%						
>40	2	1.3%						
Marital Status								
Single	30	16.0%						
Married	157	84.0%						
Domicile (Homebase)								
East Java	79	42.0%						
Central Java	2	1.0%						
Special Region of Yogyakarta	7	4.0%						
West Java	2	1.0%						
Notable Capital Region of Jakarta	2	1.0%						
Nangroe Aceh Darussalam	2	1.3%						
North Sumatera	5	2.7%						
West Sumatera	13	6.7%						
Riau	5	2.7%						
Jambi	2	1.0%						
Bengkulu	2	1.0%						
South Sumatera	40	21.3%						
Bangka Belitung Islands	2	1.0%						
West Kalimantan	2	1.0%						
Central Kalimantan	2	1.0%						
South Kalimantan	2	1.0%						
East Kalimantan	13	6.7%						
West Nusa Tenggara	2	1.0%						
East Nusa Tenggara	2	1.0%						
Last Education								
Master's degree (S2)	174	93.3%						
Doctorate (S3)	13	6.7%						
Work Unit								
Islamic State University (PTKIN)	122	65.3%						
Islamic Private University (PTKIS)	60	32.0%						
Private Non-Islamic Religious University	5	2.7%						
(PTKNIS)								
Years of Work Experience (years)								
<5	80	42.7%						
6–10	100	53.3%						
11–20	7	4.0%						

Based on the data presented in Table 2, this research indicates that of the 187 respondents, 97 (52%) are male, and 90 (48%) are female. The last level of education of 174 respondents, or 93.3% of them, was a Master's degree (S2), and 13 respondents, or 6.7% of them, held a Doctorate (S3).

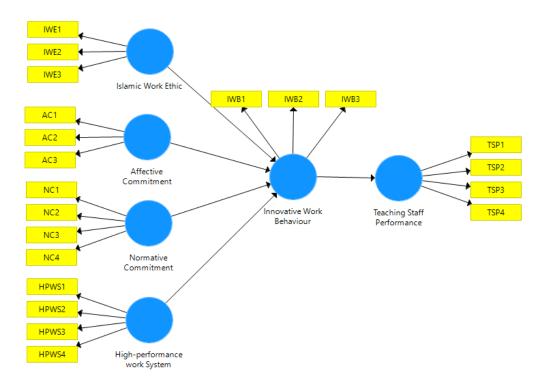


Figure 1. Path Diagram

Source: Output of Path Analysis Test (SEM-PLS)

Figure 1 represents four exogenous variables (X), one endogenous variable (Y), and one mediating variable (Z). Those variables encompass Islamic work ethic, affective commitment, normative commitment, and high-performance work systems, which influence the performance of the teaching staff and correlate with innovative work behaviour. Six variables are identified through 21 indicators, each comprising three indicators related to Islamic work ethics, three indicators related to affective commitment, four indicators related to normative commitment, four indicators related to the high-performance work system, three indicators related to innovative work behavior, and four indicators related to the support performance of teaching staff in the University.

### **Loading Factor**

There are several variations in the outer loading value, depending on the context of the development model used. Regarding the existing development models, the ideal standard value for outer loading is 0.7 (Hair Jr. et al., 2014). Another reference asserted that the context of developing a new model involves using standard ideal outer loading values of 0.5 to 0.6. (Bakri et al., 2023). Again, a VIF (Variance Inflation Factor) value shows the overall VIF value of each variable indicator passed the multicollinearity test because the VIF value is < 5 (Hair Jr. et al., 2014).

The value of the factor analysis results for each variable indicator that falls within the standardisation scale is presented in Table 3. The measurement results of a total of 21 related variable indicators are > 0.6, which implies that the total number of indicators is significantly

capable of interpreting each variable. HPWS\_1 has the lowest outer loading value of 0.648, and the highest outer loading value is 0.939 on the Islamic Work Ethic 2. This interpretation concludes that the total independent variables significantly determine the Teaching Staff Performance score. Still, based on the data in Table 3, Cronbach's alpha and composite reliability values are more significant than 0.7, which is considered adequate. Likewise, the Average Variance Extraction (AVE) results are excellent, with a value above 0.5.

**Table 3.** Measurement Model Evaluation

Variable	Code	Loading	Cronbach's	rho_A	Composite	AVE	VIF
		factor	alpha		reliability		
Islamic Work	IWE1	0.915	.908	.917	.942	.844	3.230
Ethic	IWE2	0.939					3.545
	IWE3	0.903					2.590
Affective	AC1	0.897	.837	.861	.901	.751	2.244
Commitment	AC2	0.826					1.929
	AC3	0.877					1.840
Normative	NC1	0.706	.759	.767	.847	.583	1.336
Commitment	NC2	0.835					1.821
	NC3	0.800					1.570
	NC4	0.704					1.502
High-	HPWS1	0.648	.803	.816	.873	.636	1.260
performance	HPWS2	0.851					2.271
work system	HPWS3	0.878					2.569
	HPWS4	0.792					1.650
Innovative	IWB1	0.886	.835	.835	.901	.752	2.168
work	IWB2	0.858					1.867
behaviour	IWB3	0.858					1.888
Teaching	TSP1	0.889					3.226
staff	TSP2	0.931					4.187
performance	TSP3	0.882					2.679
	TSP4	0.826	.906	.920	.934	.779	2.148

Source: Data Processing Result, Authors (2024)

# Discriminant Validity

The discriminant validity test aims to verify that each latent model construct is unique. Also, a validity test is designed to assess the accuracy of a measurement instrument. In SMART PLS, the validity of the discriminant is evaluated through Fornell-Larcker and Cross-Loading criteria. The complete results of the discriminant validity test are displayed below.

Table 4. Fornell-Larcker Criteria

	Affective	0			Normative	Teaching
	Commitment	performance	Work	Work	Commitment	Staff
		work System	Behaviour	Ethic		Performance
Affective	.867					_
Commitment						
High-	.649	.797				
performance						
work System						

	Affective	High-	Innovative	Islamic	Normative	Teaching
	Commitment	performance	Work	Work	Commitment	Staff
		work System	Behaviour	Ethic		Performance
Innovative	.733	.772	.867			_
Work						
Behaviour						
Islamic Work	.578	.507	.689	.919		
Ethic						
Normative	.726	.692	.680	.499	.763	
Commitment						
Teaching	.367	.426	.467	.582	.360	.883
Staff						
Performance						

Source: Data Processing Result, Authors (2024)

The results of the discriminant validity test, as illustrated in Table 4, were analysed using the Fornell-Larcker criteria, the square root value of AVE, and the value of the Affective Commitment variable, which is 0.867 and exceeds the correlation value of 0.649. This indicates that the requirements for discriminant validity are fulfilled. The square root of AVE from the innovative work behaviour variable is 0.867, indicating that this value exceeds the innovation correlation value of 0.772 and the affective commitment value of 0.733. This suggests that the discriminant validity requirements have been fulfilled. Similarly to the normative commitment variable, the square root value is 0.763. It is greater than the correlation values for the innovative work behaviour variable (0.680), the High-Performance Work System variable (0.692), and the Affective Commitment variable (0.726).

Table 4 presents the data processing results, which indicate that the R-squared value for the innovative work behaviour variable is 0.753. This value is relatively high, which reflects that the exogenous variables in this research include Islamic Work Ethic, Affective Commitment, and Normative Commitment. A high-performance work system that can mediate the variable is Innovative Work Behaviour (IWB) by 75.3%. Simultaneously, other variables outside the scope of this research can influence and explain 24.7% of the variables that affect Innovative Work Behaviour. The R-squared value of the teaching staff performance variable is 0.218. Islamic work ethic, affective commitment, normative commitment, and a high-performance work system can affect the endogenous variable: Teaching Staff Performance. This relatively small value indicates that 79.2% of the factors influencing Teaching Staff Performance are not accounted for by variables included in this research.

#### **Hypothesis Testing**

There are five hypotheses, as in the figure regarding the bootstrapping tests. These hypotheses are: 1) the influence of Islamic Work Ethic on Innovative Work Behaviour; 2) the influence of Affective Commitment on Innovative Work Behaviour; 3) the influence of Normative Commitment on Innovative Work Behaviour; 4) the influence of High-Performance Work System on Innovative Work Behaviour; and 5) the influence of Innovative Work Behaviour on Teaching Staff Performance.

The diagram above displays the bootstrapping test output, which includes the sample average, standard deviation, t-statistic value, and p-value, allowing for interpretation of the existing hypotheses. Table 6 provides a more detailed review.

Table 6. Hypothesis Testing

	Pathway	Sample	Standard	T Statistics	P	Decision
	-	Mean	Deviation	( O/STDEV )	Values	
		(M)	(STDEV)			
H1	Islamic Work Ethic -> Innovative	.299	.061	5.084	.000	Accepted
	Work Behaviour					
H2	Affective Commitment ->	.244	.092	2.601	.010	Accepted
	Innovative Work Behaviour					
Н3	Normative Commitment ->	.059	.084	.760	.448	Rejected
	Innovative Work Behaviour					
H4	High-performance work System -	.423	.059	7.075	.000	Accepted
	> Innovative Work Behaviour					
H5	Innovative Work Behaviour ->	.470	.100	4.662	.000	Accepted
	Teaching Staff Performance					

Source: Data Processing Result, Authors (2024)

Table 6 presents the data output, highlighting that the statistical value is more significant than the t-table value (1.96); therefore, the hypothesis tested can be accepted as valid. If the *p*-value is less than 0.05, the relationship between the variables tested influences the independent and dependent variables.

As shown in Table 6, only Hypothesis 3 is rejected among the five hypotheses, suggesting that the relationship between the normative commitment variable and innovative work behaviour is not significant. However, the other four hypotheses, H1, H2, H4, and H5, are in successive tests of the relationship of Islamic work ethic variable to Islamic work behavior, the affective commitment to innovative work behavior, the high-performance work system to innovative work behavior, and innovative work behavior to teaching staff performance variable, proven acceptable. An increase in the value of the independent variable will also escalate the value of the dependent variable and vice versa.

More specifically, this research reviews variables related to gender perspective through multi-group analysis (MGA). The differences in hypothesis test results yielded different outcomes, as shown in Tables 7 and 8 below.

**Table 7.** Hypothesis Testing (Male Respondents)

Pathway	Sample Mean (M)	Standard Deviation (STDEV)	T Statistics ( O/STDEV )	P Values	Decision
H1 Islamic Work Ethic -> Innovative Work Behaviour	.251	.112	2.517	.013	Accepted
H2 Affective Commitment -> Innovative Work Behaviour	.074	.090	.814	.417	Rejected
H3 Normative Commitment -> Innovative Work Behaviour	.232	.098	2.208	.028	Accepted

H4 High-performance work	.494	.070	7.027	.000	Accepted
System -> Innovative Work					
Behaviour					
H5 Innovative Work Behaviour	.152	.170	.768	.443	Rejected
-> Teaching Staff					
Performance					

Source: Data Processing Result, Authors (2024)

Hypothesis testing on male respondents reveals that affective commitment does not significantly affect Innovative Work Behaviour, as the *t*-statistic value of 0.814 is smaller than the t-table value of 1.96. On the other hand, a disproportionate hypothesis is also discovered in Islamic work ethics on the performance of teaching staff with a *t*-statistic value of 0.768 < 1.96 (*t*-table value)

**Table 8.** Hypothesis Testing (Female Respondents)

	Pathway	Sample	Standard	T Statistics	P	Decision
		Mean (M)	Deviation (STDEV)	( O/STDEV )	Values	
H1	Islamic Work Ethic ->	.298	.080	3.889	.000	Accepted
	Innovative Work Behaviour					
H2	Affective Commitment ->	.382	.176	2.162	.032	Accepted
	Innovative Work Behaviour					
Н3	Normative Commitment ->	032	.125	.284	.776	Rejected
	Innovative Work Behaviour					
H4	High-performance work	.345	.124	2.709	.007	Accepted
	System -> Innovative Work					
	Behaviour					
Н5	Innovative Work Behaviour -	.631	.090	7.033	.000	Accepted
	> Teaching Staff					
	Performance					

Source: Data Processing Result, Authors (2024)

Meanwhile, the findings of the hypothesis testing results on female respondents are also interesting. It indicates that the normative commitment has a statistical t-value of 0.284, less than the t-table value of 1.96. The *p*-value is 0.776, indicating that normative commitment does not significantly affect innovative work behaviour; therefore, the hypothesis is rejected. Regarding the other variables, the hypothesis is supported and accepted.

Table 9. Mediation Test

Pathway	Sample Mean (M)	Standard Deviation (STDEV)	T Statistics ( O/STDEV )	P Values	Decision
Affective Commitment ->	.114	.048	2.302	.022	Accepted
Innovative Work Behaviour ->					
Teaching Staff Performance					
High-performance work System ->	.198	.049	3.992	.000	Accepted
Innovative Work Behaviour ->					
Teaching Staff Performance					

Islamic Work Ethic -> Innovative	.142	.047	3.038	.003	Accepted
Work Behaviour -> Teaching Staff					
Performance					
Normative Commitment ->	.027	.039	.755	.451	Rejected
Innovative Work Behaviour ->					
Teaching Staff Performance					

Source: Data Processing Result, Authors (2024)

After determining the effects of Islamic work behaviour, affective commitment, normative commitment, and high-performance work system variables on innovative work behaviour, the innovative work behaviour variable was also tested as a mediator between the effects of the variables in question, as revealed in the hypothesis framework in Figure 1. Based on Table 9, almost all independent variables can be mediated by innovative work behaviour in the lecturers' performance, except for normative commitment, which cannot be mediated by innovative work behaviour.

#### **DISCUSSION**

The Influence of Islamic Work Ethic, Affective Commitment, and High-performance Work Systems on Lecturer Performance in Islamic Universities through Innovation at Work.

Lecturers' performance is part of the representation of the University's performance, as it is an institution in which they reside. All forms of lecturer behaviour can trigger output performance. (Sarmawa et al., 2022)(Sarmawa et al., 2022). A person's desires in determining attitude are reviewed in the Theory of Planned Behaviour. The Theory of Planned Behaviour (TPB) states that outcomes or consequences are pivotal in determining a person's behaviour. (Farrukh et al., 2022; Hilz et al., 2025; Nugroho et al., 2019; Vanany et al., 2019). Attitude toward behaviour, as one of the essences of the TPB, is applied to innovative work behaviour. Subsequently, it will correlate with Islamic work ethic, affective commitment, normative commitment, and high-performance systems. (V. Fernandez, 2022; Hanaysha et al., 2023; LaRota-Aguilera et al., 2022; Panji Anom & Gustomo, 2023). This research focuses on the performance level of the teaching staff, specifically the performance of individual employees. Several issues are argued and explored in this study, including the fact that the lecturers of the Islamic University are a group with a work environment aligned with the Islamic religion. This is quite compelling, as it is presumed that consistent and sustained principles in belief form a common work culture and goals, reinforcing a positive working environment. (J. De Jong & Den Hartog, 2010).

The discussion regarding the impact of Islamic work ethics on innovative work behaviour among lecturers at the Islamic University level leads us to a closer understanding of how religious values, organisational work systems, and gender factors interact in this particular context. Islamic work ethics, encompassing principles such as honesty, responsibility, integrity, and diligence, can positively influence innovative work behaviour. As individuals practice these values in their work, they tend to engage more openly with new ideas, be creatively solution-seeking, and be more eager to collaborate.

Those who practice this Islamic work ethic are visible in their daily interactions. However, there is no doubt that the managerial relationship between leaders and subordinates looks more formal than that between colleagues. Concerning organisational culture and innovation behaviour,

lecturers at the Islamic University often exhibit high work innovation. This could be due to the recognition of the importance of creative approaches in education by structural members and colleagues, who must adjust their teaching methods to Islamic values and understand the unique needs of each student.

The reinforcement of the value of work innovation is inseparable from the work system and lecturers' loyalty to their institutions. The system of work that starts with leaders and lecturers at the Islamic University can influence lecturers' loyalty to the institution where they work. This system encourages lecturers to play a crucial role in the institution's success and, therefore, feel obligated to maintain their loyalty (Indayanti et al., 2022; Soares & Lopes, 2020).

In line with this review, it is interesting to explore the gender perspective in examining innovative work behaviour, as already outlined and reviewed at the beginning of the paper. Studies on innovative work behaviour among Islamic lecturers are interesting to discuss from a gender perspective.

# The Role of Gender in Moderating the Relationship between Innovative Work Behaviour and Lecturer Performance in Islamic Universities

Differences in experiences, perceptions, and expectations between male and female lecturers may affect their innovative work behaviour patterns. The uniqueness of innovative work behaviour is evident in the expressions, characteristics, and analysis of the respondents' answers. The affective commitment of male lecturers is not always directly proportional to work innovation. Male lecturers in Islamic Universities may not always have a high level of work innovation due to a strong affective commitment to the institution where they work. A lack of innovation can lead to suboptimal performance despite having a strong Islamic work ethic. (Bin-Nashwan et al., 2023; Noerchoidah et al., 2022). Male lecturers, however, tend to exhibit a high Islamic work ethic, a strong normative commitment, and adaptive behaviour within the daily work system. This suggests that, although their level of innovation may not always be high, they continue to incorporate religious values into their profession.

On the other hand, a few surprising differences were obtained from female lecturer respondents. They have a structured work attitude. Female lecturers tend to exhibit a broader range of innovative work attitudes than their male counterparts. Depending on the respondent, this can impact their performance improvement, especially in increasing the institution's overall performance. (Cook, 2021; Hadi et al., 2020). Further review is required to assess the importance of a detailed examination of innovative work behaviour and its gender perspective. A deeper review of innovative work behaviour from a gender perspective can help evaluate the performance and development of educational institutions. (Hussain et al., 2023; Luyao et al., 2022) (Hussain et al., 2023; Luyao et al., 2022). This helps stakeholders, primarily those associated with educational institutions, to evaluate non-academic performance and institutional development.

Additionally, innovative work behaviour has a significant impact on the modern workforce. The value of innovative work ethics mediates the relationship between affective commitment, high-performance work systems, and Islamic work ethic towards work performance. This highlights that innovative work behaviours are essential to establishing a positive work culture in all industries. One of the most significant aspects for lecturers is generating new ideas to enhance the organisation's quality. Innovation in education can enhance the quality of education and advance the industry. Encouragement from both leaders and co-workers plays a critical role in improving employees' performance and generating creative ideas. Cross-line and cross-structure

support are also necessary to reach optimal performance in generating and actualising creative ideas.

# Synergy of Islamic Values and Innovation in Improving Lecturer Performance in Islamic Universities

As in many other organisations, critical, supportive, creative, and problem-solving principles should be integrated into the environments of Islamic universities. Creating a supportive work environment that fosters new ideas and creative problem-solving is inseparable from a work culture that encourages continuous innovation.

Continuous performance improvement requires the disciplined and consistent implementation of all variables. Occasionally, performance improvement is accomplished through a commitment to innovative work behaviours. Ultimately, the values of innovative work behaviour in the Islamic University environment can continually develop and complement one another, resulting in a productive and harmonious work ecosystem. Consequently, individuals and organisations must adopt and encourage innovative work behaviours to compete and thrive in this ever-changing era.

This analysis concludes that understanding the relationship between Islamic work ethics, gender, and innovative work behaviour in Islamic education is critical. This can assist educational institutions in evolving strategies to raise lecturers' performance and strengthen their contribution to the institution's overall development. It also lays the foundation for adequate staff training and development programs. Implementing an Islamic work ethic that embodies the values of honesty, responsibility, integrity, and hard work provides the foundation for establishing an innovative work culture. This is reflected in how lecturers can integrate Islamic values into creative and adaptive teaching methods based on students' needs.

However, gender differences are an interesting dimension that needs further analysis. Female lecturers tend to present a more structured and innovative work attitude than male lecturers, who, despite having high normative commitment and an Islamic work ethic, are sometimes less effective in promoting innovation. This factor highlights the need for a gender-based approach to foster balanced and innovative work behaviour in PTKIS. Besides, high-performance work systems and institutional loyalty play a significant role in fostering innovation. Lecturers who feel supported by a positive work environment are more likely to engage in cross-disciplinary collaboration, generating creative innovations relevant to the institution's needs. Peer and leadership support are essential in creating a collaborative work environment that fosters productivity and innovation.

Realising the importance of innovative work behaviour is key to advancing Islamic higher education in Indonesia. Institutions can strengthen lecturers' commitment to achieving common goals by implementing training programs based on Islamic work ethics and values. In the current fast-changing era, this approach also increases the institution's competitiveness by capitalising on the unique potential of gender diversity and individual backgrounds. This analysis renders a strategic basis for integrating Islamic values with modern work practices, creating a productive, harmonious, and sustainable work ecosystem.

### **CONCLUSION**

This paper highlights the influence of the Islamic work ethic on innovative work behaviour among lecturers at Islamic Universities. The Islamic work ethic, characterised by honesty, responsibility, and diligence, promotes creativity, adaptability, and collaboration, essential for fostering innovation. Moreover, institutional loyalty driven by effective work systems significantly contributes to innovative behaviours. Gender differences reveal distinctive dynamics as female lecturers employ more structured and creative approaches. In contrast, male lecturers often demonstrate a strong ethical commitment but may lack a proportionate level of innovation. Managerial implications suggest institutions prioritise training and programs centred on Islamic work ethics to foster innovation. Gender-responsive strategies are crucial for enhancing female lecturers' contributions to innovation while strengthening the affective commitment of male lecturers. Integrating Islamic work ethics into human resource policies can create a productive, innovative, and conducive environment for achieving institutional goals.

The study's limitations include a lack of detailed exploration of gender-specific innovation dimensions and its focus solely on Islamic Universities, which limits its generalizability. Future research should broaden the analysis to non-Islamic institutions and evaluate the impact of training programs on Islamic work ethics and gender-balanced innovation practices.

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