

Unfolding parallel reasoning in islamic jurisprudence (II)
Dialectical Meaning and Similarity within
Abū Ishāq al-Shīrāzī's System of Co-Relational Inferences of Indication

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Abstract. One of the epistemological results emerging from this initial study, is that the different forms of *co-relational inference*, known in the Islamic jurisprudence as *qiyās* represent an innovative and sophisticated form of reasoning that not only provide new epistemological insights of legal reasoning in general but they also furnish a fine-grained pattern for *parallel reasoning* that can be deployed in a wide range of problem-solving contexts and that does not seem to reduce to the standard forms of analogical argumentation studied in contemporary philosophy of science. More specifically the main claim is that a dialectical framework provides the right instrument to stress three of the most salient features of this form of inference: (1) the interaction of heuristic with logical steps, (2) the dynamics underlying the meaning-explanation of the terms involved (3) the unfolding of parallel reasoning as similarity in action. They display what we take to be the main epistemological idea behind the *qiyās*, namely: the open texture of the extension of normative statements subject to this kind of parallel reasoning. In the present paper, we will only discuss the case of so-called *co-relational inferences of Indication (qiyās al-dalāla)* which is divided into three hierarchical forms: *coexistence*, *symmetry* and *resemblance*.

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