Mapping the Terrain Study:

- Empirically examines the human development approach and ways universal values are embedded and infused to it.
- Focuses on attitudes and beliefs about empathy, moral reasoning, forgiveness, and community mindedness.
- An annual quantitative surveying among university students, school students (older than 15), their teachers, administrators, and parents (N = 21,626).
- Utilizes reliable measures administered in international contexts.
- Sensitive to Muslim societies, cultures, and socio-political conditions.

Definitions:

**Forgiveness:**
- In this study it is defined as the ability and willingness to let go of hard feelings and the need to seek revenge from someone who has wronged the subject or committed a perceived injustice against the subject or others.

**Empathy:**
- In this study it is defined as the ability and willingness to care, feel, and take the perspective of others.
- Empathy has been shown to impact forgiveness and having high levels of empathy makes forgiveness easier, especially sub-dimensions of empathy such as perspective taking (Mellor, Fung & Mamat, 2012).

Sampling:
- Sampling was random in some locations and convenient in others. Mostly random samples at the school level.
- Sampling schemes depended on access. Overall minimum sampling numbers were achieved in all countries.
- The sample was evenly split between males and females and 61% of the sample was younger than 24.

Distribution of Survey Respondents by Country:

Scale Means by Country:

**Conclusions & Implications:**

- Empathy and forgiveness were highly correlated in this large scale and multi-site comparative study.
- Empathy is confirmed to predict forgiveness on all subscales.
- There were no significant differences based on demographic variables such as gender, age, and education.
- As the sample is based on Muslim societies (84% of participants were Muslims), the results confirm previous research in other societies.
- Among such a large sample, this has implications for policy, reform of education curricula, and pedagogy in Muslim societies and beyond.