

# Celebrating 20 Years

## Calendar of Events 2018/19

Improving Relations between Religion & Society through Education



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Image, Dr Ed Kessler with the Management Team (left to right): Helen Cornish, Dr Ed Kessler, Dr Esther-Miriam Wagner, Amy Rhys-Davies and Dr Emma Harris



HRH The Princess Royal and Dr Ed Kessler MBE  
at the official opening of the new Woolf Institute  
Building on 16 April 2018

Image: Theo Wood

# Welcome

We are delighted to present the Woolf Institute calendar of events for 2018-19, which marks our 20th anniversary.

In October 1998, the Revd Dr Martin Forward and I welcomed 4 students for the first MA class in Jewish-Christian Relations in a converted 'bedroom set' at Wesley House. 20 years later, we explore relations between religion and society in a beautiful 1550m<sup>2</sup> facility on the grounds of Westminster College. I offer some reflections on two decades of research, teaching, outreach and policy on p 27.

There were many highlights in our first year in the new building, including the keynote lecture on 'The Day after Peace is Agreed' by HRH Prince Hassan of Jordan, the concert by Sarajevo's Pontanima Choir and the activities of an extremely busy Research Hub. However, the opening of our new building by our Patron, HRH The Princess Royal, on April 16 2018 was the climax. It was a wonderful occasion and the building was full to overflowing with royal figures from overseas, faith leaders from across the UK, our Development Council and Trustees, peers and dignitaries from Cambridge and beyond, as well as students and staff. HRH spent the morning with us and took the time to meet everyone. We are very grateful.

As you will see, this year the Institute again offers a wide range of educational activities, from research seminars and academic conferences to art exhibitions and concerts, as well as a broad selection of teaching programmes, online and face-to-face. I hope you will take the opportunity to join us for one of these events. For those who want a 'taster', I recommend our Research Day on 8 November, when 20 researchers will be offering 'snippets' of their work. For an insight into the more social side of the Institute, please join students, staff and alumni for dinner that evening, or look out for further information about events in London and Cambridge as they are added to our website,

From January-June 2019, I will be taking a sabbatical and will take the opportunity to read, write and, I hope, rejuvenate, after a busy few years. Dr Esther-Miriam Wagner will be taking up the role of Acting Director in my absence, ably supported by the management team of Helen Cornish, Dr Emma Harris and Amy Rhys-Davies.

Thank you for your interest in the work of the Woolf Institute and we hope you will be able to join us for one of our events this year and to have the opportunity to see our work at first-hand.

Dr Ed Kessler MBE

# Michaelmas Term



## Woolf Institute Lecture Series

5.30pm, 10 October, Woolf Institute

The termly Woolf Institute Lecture Series provides opportunity to listen to talks by senior British academics, politicians, and activists. Our Michaelmas Lecture will be delivered by Professor Qudsia Mirza on 'Whither Islamic Feminisms?'

Qudsia Mirza teaches Islamic Law at Birkbeck, University of London. After qualifying as a solicitor, Professor Mirza joined the University of East London and progressed to become Senior Lecturer in Law. After re-locating to the US, she taught at Albany Law School, Washington & Lee University and the University of Cincinnati. She was a Research Fellow at the University of California, Berkeley, and a Visiting Fellow in the Islamic Legal Studies Program of Harvard Law School. She has also been a Visiting Fellow at the Centre on Human Rights in Conflict, University of East London.

Professor Mirza has been appointed to executive and advisory positions for a number of organisations, including the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants in the UK and the Contemporary Arab and Muslim Cultural Studies Institute, University of North Texas. She has been a member of the editorial boards of *Muslim World Journal of Human Rights* and *Social and Legal Studies*.

Professor Mirza's research focuses on several areas: Islamic Law, particularly the feminist perspective; legal pluralism, the operation of state and Islamic laws as legal cultures in the British and US context; and the nature of religious identity. She has published in these areas and is currently editing a collection named *Islam, Feminism and Legal Cultures*.

## Library Talks

5pm, 7 November, Woolf Institute, and throughout the year

This talk, by Professor Deborah Howard, marks the publication of the book, *The Sacred Home in Renaissance Italy*, by Abigail Brundin, Deborah Howard and Mary Laven. The book explores the rich devotional life of the Italian household between 1450 and 1600. Rejecting the enduring stereotype of the Renaissance as a secular age, this study reveals the home to have been an important site of spiritual revitalisation. Books, buildings, objects, spaces, images, and archival sources cast new light on the many ways in which religion infused daily life within the household.

Enquiries to Susanne Jennings [scj22@cam.ac.uk](mailto:scj22@cam.ac.uk)

## Seminar Series Muslim-Jewish Relations

5pm, 13 November (further in February & May), Cambridge

The Michaelmas Muslim-Jewish Relations seminar will be held on Tuesday 13 November at 5pm. Our speaker is Dr Alice Panepinto (Queen's University Belfast) who will discuss 'The Al-Khan al-Ahmar school demolition case and its socio-legal significance'. A short drinks reception will be held after the event.

Enquiries to Dr Esther-Miriam Wagner [emw36@cam.ac.uk](mailto:emw36@cam.ac.uk)

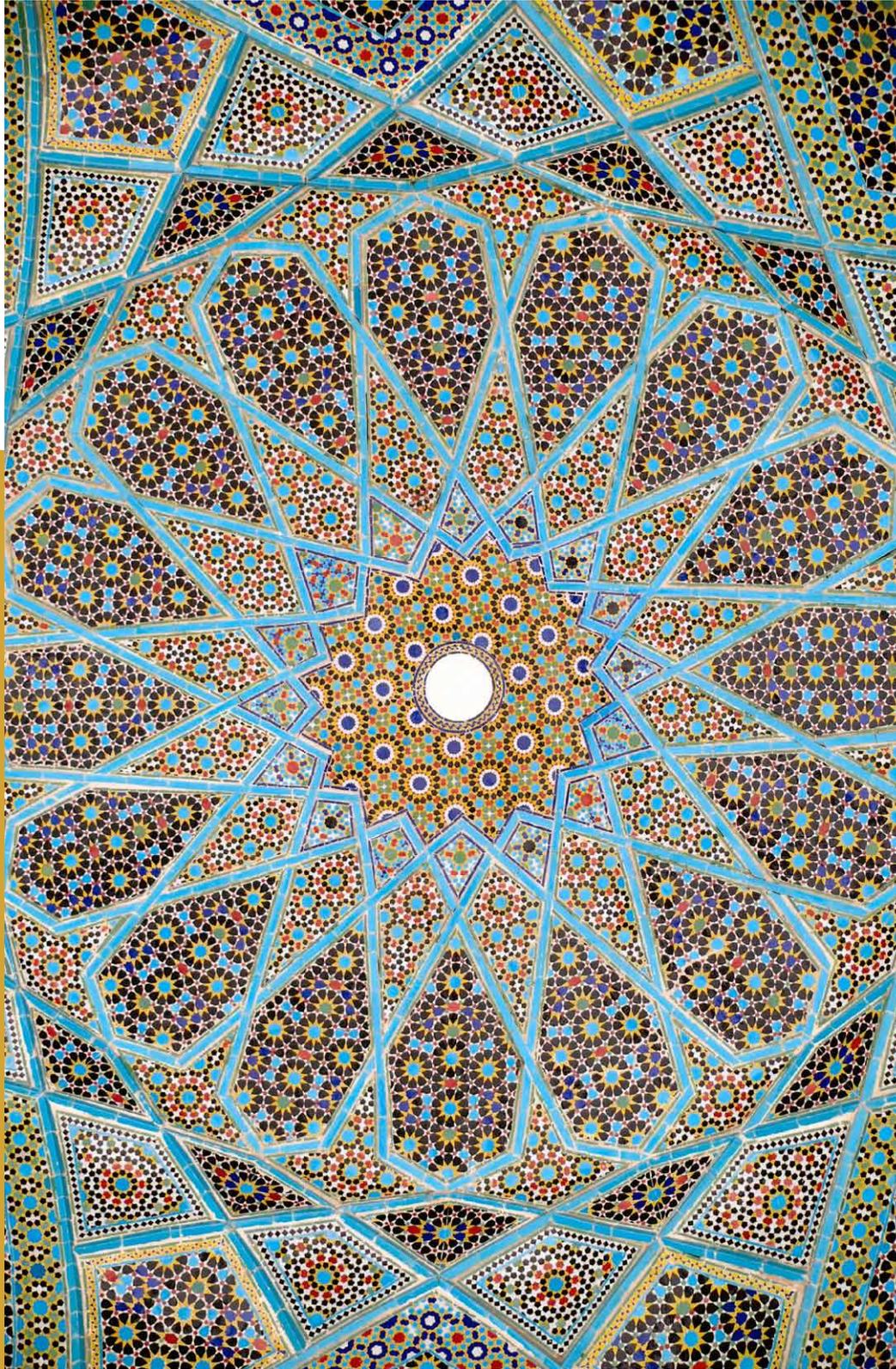
## Festival of Ideas

6pm, 15 October, St John's College Panel session: Fundamentalism

Why do fundamentalist beliefs and practices function as they do? Why are they so attractive? Prof Kim Knott (Lancaster), Dr Ed Kessler, and Tobias Müller will discuss fundamentalisms in Jewish, Muslim, Christian and non-religious contexts.

5pm, 16 October, Woolf Institute Panel with The Rev'd Canon Chris Chivers, Dr Atif Imtiaz and Dr Ed Kessler

The panel will discuss how people of faith interpret texts that can be used to justify violence and how scholars and theologians understand texts that could be interpreted as encouraging violence. What techniques can be applied to texts such as Psalm 137:9 – 'Happy shall he be who takes your little ones and dashes them against the rock!'



Tomb of Hafez, Iran

## 20th Anniversary Celebration Annual Research Day & Dinner

8 November 2018, Woolf Institute & St Edmund's College, Cambridge

Session 1: 11am-1pm

Luncheon (advance booking essential, limited places)

Session 2: 2.30-4pm

Tea & Coffee

Session 3: 4.30-6pm

Dinner: 7.30pm (at St Edmund's, pre-booked only)

To launch the Woolf Institute's 20th Anniversary celebrations, we are holding a special Annual Research Day, followed by a celebratory dinner at St Edmund's College.

More than twenty researchers and students associated with the Woolf Institute will present their work in accessible, eight-minute presentations.

Among the many talks we will hear are 'Fundamentalism, Patriarchy and the State', 'Music and Memory among Syrian Musicians', 'Police Stop and Search in British Muslim Communities', 'Practising Religion on Ships', 'Ethical Tensions in Grassroots Evangelical Christian outreach with Muslims', 'The Dynamics of Intercultural Music in Granada', 'How the Far Right makes Men: the Case of Syrian and Palestinian Refugees in Dresden', 'The Rise & Fall of the German-Jewish Retailer', and 'Muslim and Jewish Women's Quest for Egalitarian Justice within Religious Family Laws'.

This event has already proven to be very popular – spaces are limited and you are encouraged to book your attendance of any part of the day as soon as possible <https://woolf20.eventbrite.co.uk>

The day will also see the launch of our latest photographic exhibition: *Synagogues from around Europe*.

Inquiries to Dr John F Mueller [jfm39@cam.ac.uk](mailto:jfm39@cam.ac.uk)

## Seminar **We need to talk about Israel & Palestine** A Muslim-Jewish conversation

5pm, 20 November, Woolf Institute

A discussion with Baroness Warsi and Jonathan Freedland of *The Guardian*, chaired by Dr Ed Kessler. Booking advised, please see [www.woolf.cam.ac.uk](http://www.woolf.cam.ac.uk)




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## Seminar Series **Religion & the State**

2.30pm, 27 November, Woolf Institute

The Woolf Institute, in collaboration with the European Public Law Organisation based in Athens and the Centre for Public Law in the University of Cambridge, is organising a termly series of public seminars on the theme 'Religion and the State'. The Rt Hon the Lord Woolf will preside at this first seminar. The seminars will be multi-disciplinary, approaching each topic from historical, legal, philosophical and theological standpoints.

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## Reading Group **Gender & Everyday Life in Contemporary Religion**

Michaelmas and Lent, Woolf Institute

During Michaelmas and Lent, we will meet for bi-monthly reading discussions to explore current research on gender and everyday life from a variety of disciplines.

Enquiries to Dr Lea Taragin-Zeller [lz378@cam.ac.uk](mailto:lz378@cam.ac.uk)



## Workshop **The 'Ethical' & the 'Everyday'** Interrogating analytical turns for/in the study of Islam & Muslims in Europe

All Day, 29 & 30 November, Woolf Institute

The study of Islam and Muslims has been influenced by various schools of thought and ethnographic methods. Recently, an important debate took place between proponents of the "ethical turn" and those of the "everyday turn". The former pays particular attention to the self-ethical identification of Muslims, focusing therefore directly or indirectly on piety, while the later critiques the over-focus on piety as it silences other aspects of ordinary life, such as playing football or going to the café.

The on-going debate between these two turns has created a dichotomy in the way we look at Muslims: either as pious and exceptional, or as ordinary and real. It is this binary that the workshop aims to address regarding Muslims in Europe. The workshop is particularly interested in scrutinising and discussing the analytical value and implications of both these turns. What is, we ask, the analytical purchase of these turns within the study of Islam and Muslims in Europe?

Enquiries to Amin El-Yousfi [ae375@cam.ac.uk](mailto:ae375@cam.ac.uk)



### **Amin El-Yousfi PhD Scholar**

Amin El-Yousfi is finishing his PhD thesis about the role and identity of local Muslim leaders in London and Paris and preparing a workshop on 'the "ethical" and the "everyday" for/in the study of Islam and Muslims in Europe.



## Faith & Brexit

### Potential implications of Brexit for UK faith communities

10am-12noon, 4 December, Woolf Institute

As the date for leaving the EU is approaching, the Faith and Brexit panel discussion will try to establish and evaluate potential implications

of Brexit for UK faith communities. Since the 2016 referendum, we have had data on voting preferences of various UK faith groups, but the effect which Brexit may have on religious communities in Britain remains unclear. The panel will discuss the issues from a multidisciplinary perspective, including law, politics, and interfaith cooperation.



## Conference Jewish & Muslim UK Immigration Experiences

### Echoes of the Past, Influences on the Present

9.15am, 6 December, All Day  
Cambridge Muslim College (Morning)  
& Woolf Institute (Afternoon).

This one-day conference will discuss common experiences that Jewish and Muslim communities have of immigration to the UK. It has become clear to several researchers in the field that there are some similarities between the experiences of British Muslims and those of British Jews from a century earlier. This conference will allow researchers who wish to explore such connections an opportunity to present their ideas in an atmosphere of discussion, engagement and exchange. Dr Atif Imtiaz, Academic Director of the Muslim College and Dr Ed Kessler have been working together for a number of years and will co-chair the conference.

Booking <https://immigrationexperiences.eventbrite.co.uk>

# Lent Term

## Faith and Fashion

### Embodiment, Gender & Religious Visibility

5pm, 30 January, Woolf Institute

This panel will explore the nexus of body management, gender and religious cultures from a comparative perspective. Kristin Aune will speak on British feminists' approach to religion and spirituality, showing what their experiences reveal about the lived, embodied and relational nature of religio-spirituality. Based on ethnographic research conducted among ultra-Orthodox female teenagers in Israel, Dr Lea Taragin-Zeller will explore how female piety is constructed through a negotiation of modesty and beauty practices. Finally, Professor Reina Lewis will discuss the politics of religious visibility through dress in the interfaith context. She will reflect on how dress and body management, as expressions of religious and ethnic identities, are variably legible in particular contexts to different audiences.

Enquiries to Dr Lea Taragin-Zeller [lz378@cam.ac.uk](mailto:lz378@cam.ac.uk)

## Book Launch Future of Interfaith Dialogue

5pm, 20 February, Woolf Institute

Edited by Yazid Said and Lejla Demiri *The Future of Interfaith Dialogue: Muslim-Christian Encounters through A Common Word* will be launched as this term's Library Talk. A reception, sponsored by Cambridge University Press, will follow.



## Roots, Diaspora & Belonging: A Musical Exploration

### Concert with Yair Dalal and Ahmed Mukhtar

Concerts, Evenings, 12 & 14 February, London & Cambridge  
Workshop, All Day, 13 February, Woolf Institute

Yair Dalal and Ahmed Mukhtar will join the Woolf Institute for an unprecedented programme, including two performances of classical Arabic music from Iraq. The acclaimed oud and violin virtuoso, Yair Dalal, who is of Iraqi-Jewish descent, will perform music from the Sephardi and Mizrahi repertoires: specifically the Iraqi Jewish repertoires from Baghdad. Ahmed Mukhtar, internationally renowned oud virtuoso and composer from Baghdad, will perform music from the ancient Arabic maqam tradition of Iraq. They will end with a joint taqasim performance, an instrumental improvisation that usually precedes a traditional Arabic musical composition.

The performances will not only celebrate the ancient musical tradition of maqam that developed centuries ago in what is now modern Iraq, an art that is part of UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage, but also highlight the shared musical and communal traditions of Iraqi Muslims and Jews. Exploring how this legacy of shared music and language can invoke a common past and contribute toward shaping an intercommunal presence among diaspora Baghdadi faith communities is part of the Living in Harmony project at the Woolf Institute, which also explores similar Halabi traditions from Syria.

The concerts on 12 and 14 February 2019 are bookends for a workshop called *Roots, Diaspora, and Belonging: A Musical Exploration*, at the Woolf Institute on 13 February. The workshop will feature speakers from a variety of disciplines, including anthropology, ethnomusicology, archaeology and sociology, as well as from Syrian and Iraqi artists and musicians.

Enquiries to Dunya Habash [dh599@cam.ac.uk](mailto:dh599@cam.ac.uk)

## Woolf Institute Research Seminars

February & May, Woolf Institute

The Woolf Institute Research Group Seminar Series, which gives students and postdoctoral researchers the opportunity to present their latest work and receive feedback from their peers, continues.

Enquiries to Dr Esther-Miriam Wagner [emw36@cam.ac.uk](mailto:emw36@cam.ac.uk)

## Conference Fundamentalism, Gender Roles & the State

25-26 March, Woolf Institute, further details on our website

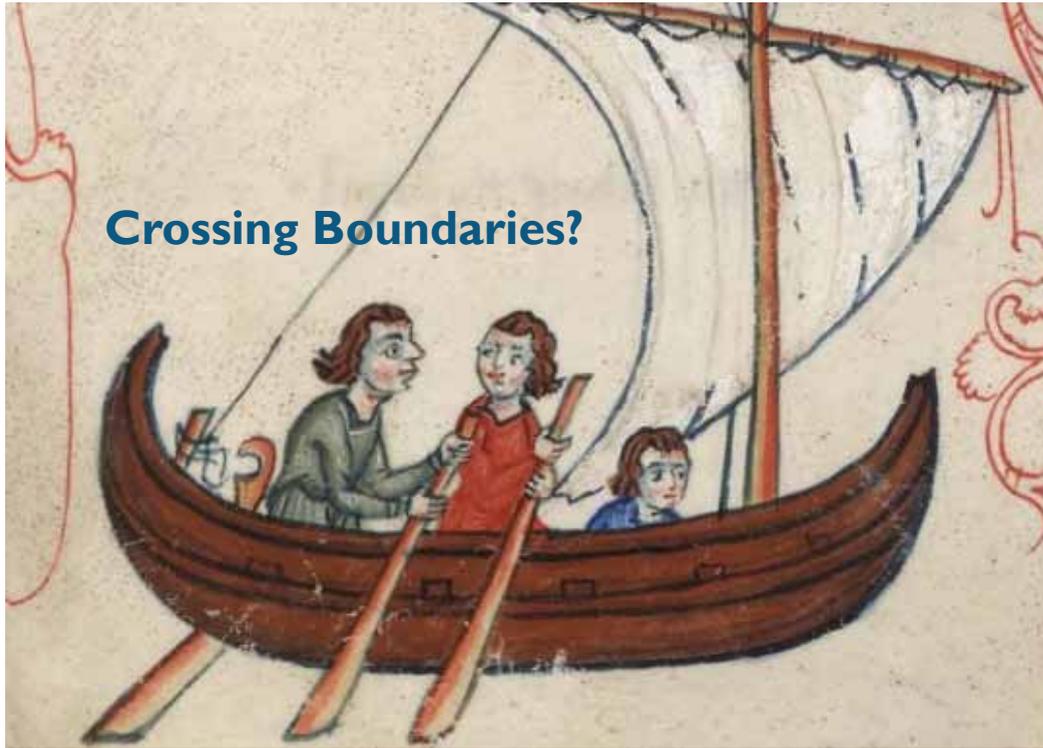
This conference seeks to question how fundamentalism challenges two basic principles within contemporary societies: gender equality and the modern state. The conference will bring together political scientists, sociologists, social anthropologists, theologians and religious studies scholars to discuss different approaches to the role of patriarchy and criticism of the modern state within fundamentalist movements.

Drawing on Martin Riesebrodt's conceptualisation of fundamentalism as 'patriarchal protest movement', the conference will discuss how gender roles are a backbone for the persistence of fundamentalisms. At the same time, the conference seeks to address how the changing role of women inside and outside fundamentalist movements is one of the most serious challenges to established authorities.

The struggle over women and the family is at the same time a crucial arena of conflict between fundamentalists and the secular-liberal order ingrained in the modern state. Thus, the conference seeks to uncover how the modern state, in its different varieties of secularism, functions as a crucial target for fundamentalist struggles for a Jewish homeland, Dharmarajya or a Caliphate State.

Enquiries to Tobias Müller [tm498@cam.ac.uk](mailto:tm498@cam.ac.uk)

For the latest up-to-date information on events, visit: [www.woolf.cam.ac.uk](http://www.woolf.cam.ac.uk)



## Trade & Connections on the Medieval Mediterranean

10–12 April, Woolf Institute & St John's College, Cambridge

This conference will highlight the lives of people involved in maritime mercantile activity in the medieval Mediterranean and the worlds which they occupied, especially as these relate to boundaries in the context of cross-cultural and inter-confessional exchanges.

Scholarly debates presuppose that the medieval Mediterranean was a sea of boundaries: boundaries between religions, boundaries between cultures and boundaries between rival powers. Although obstacles preventing communication and connection across the sea certainly existed in this period, it is difficult to clearly define Mediterranean 'boundaries' or to identify where, if they existed, they were. States and institutions, for example, certainly aimed to construct boundaries through the regulation of contact and exchange, but with the absence of any pan-Mediterranean maritime law, or the ability to effectively police the sea, this was never fully achieved. Particular attention will be paid to merchants and their trade, looking at how they connected people and perceived boundaries.

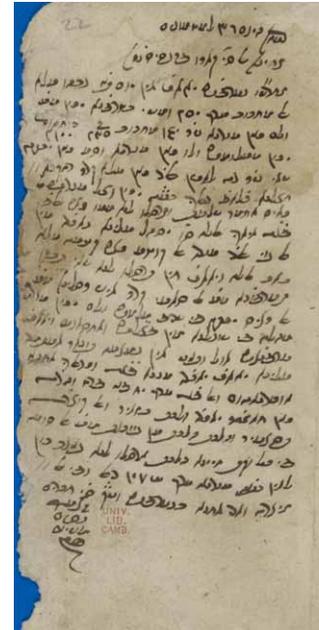
Enquiries to Jessica Tearney-Pearce [jet69@cam.ac.uk](mailto:jet69@cam.ac.uk)

## Ottoman Arabic Workshop

During Lent Term, Woolf Institute

Dr Esther-Miriam Wagner is currently collating a Handbook and Reader of Ottoman Arabic, which will contain Christian, Muslim and Jewish texts written in the Ottoman period, and compare the different confessional language varieties used by members of the different communities. This rich material remains very little explored because texts from the 16th century onwards have often been viewed as corrupted and not worthy of study by traditional scholarship. The Ottoman Arabic workshop brings together experts on Jewish, Muslim and Christian Arabic of the 16th to 20th centuries, with the purpose of producing the first philological Handbook and Reader of Ottoman Arabic.

Enquiries to Dr Esther-Miriam Wagner  
[emw36@cam.ac.uk](mailto:emw36@cam.ac.uk)



(Top) By permission of the Syndics of Cambridge University Library  
(Left) By permission of The National Archives

## How you can help Events

Events are a key part of increasing the Institute's impact on society and policy moving us further towards a world in which collaborative discussion and constructive engagement can overcome prejudice and intolerance. The cost for events ranges from £600 to £3,000, which you may consider giving a donation towards. Or, you could consider volunteering for us.

[www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/fundraising](http://www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/fundraising) or [development@woolf.cam.ac.uk](mailto:development@woolf.cam.ac.uk)

# Easter Term

## Woolf Institute Lecture Series

5.30pm, 22 May, Woolf Institute

A talk by Professor Anna Sapir Abulafia entitled *Jacob and Esau and the Interplay of Jewish and Christian Identities in the Middle Ages*.

This paper examines the complex relationship between Judaism and Christianity through the biblical narrative of Jacob and Esau. It explores how medieval Jews and Christians internalised the claims made by their respective religious traditions and asks whether the image of fraternal rivalry between Jacob and Esau adequately encapsulates the ambiguous and paradoxical relationship between medieval Christianity and Judaism.

Anna Sapir Abulafia took up the Chair of the Study of the Abrahamic Religions in the Faculty of Theology and Religion at Oxford in April 2015. Previously she taught in Cambridge where she was Senior Tutor (1996 - 2002) and Vice-President (2002 - 2010) of Lucy Cavendish College. The main focus of her research is on interactions between Christians and Jews within the broad context of twelfth and thirteenth-century theological and ecclesiastical developments in medieval Latin Christendom. Her most recent book is *Christian-Jewish Relations, 1000-1300: Jews in the Service of Medieval Christendom* (2011). Her present project examines the place of Jews and Muslims in Gratian's *Decretum*.

Image: Jacob & Esau,  
after Rubens

## Workshop Religious Authority & Everyday Life - Anthropological Perspectives

All Day, 19-21 June 2019, Woolf Institute

The resurgence in religious affiliation has led to growing ethnographic accounts highlighting religious authorities as central forces in both individual and institutional infrastructures. Increasing levels of access to religious canonical texts through new media and growing demands for gender equality, as well as transnational migration patterns, are challenging notions of religious authority. In this context, contemporary anthropologists have noted the ways religious authorities and institutions construct novel models of authoritative knowledge, legitimacy and power in the face of mounting challenges. The aim of this workshop is to bring anthropologists from diverse backgrounds together to develop ethnographic-based models for the contemporary analysis of religious authority. By comparing a variety of dynamic models of religious authority, this workshop will address some of the following questions:

1. What role does canon and religious authority play as rising levels of access to religious canonical texts through new media and technology democratise religious knowledge?
2. How are religious authorities performing and negotiating their authority as the internet and fluid geographical boundaries challenge local models of religious authority?
3. As the phenomena of female scholars rise in faith communities, how are models of female knowledge and religious authority reconfigured? And, how are claims to authenticity, gender and LGBT equality negotiated?
4. What particular ideals and practices of authoritative knowledge, guidance and power have emerged in response to these challenges?

Enquiries to Dr Lea Taragin-Zeller [lz378@cam.ac.uk](mailto:lz378@cam.ac.uk)

## Afternoon Tea at the Institute

28 September 2019, Woolf Institute

To coincide with the University of Cambridge's Alumni Weekend we will be holding an annual tea party to which all those interested in the Woolf Institute, including members of the university, are invited. We will alternate Saturday and Sunday for this event each year to give all our friends the opportunity to attend.

# Research

## Historical Research Projects

Dr Esther-Miriam Wagner  
& Dr Mohamed Ahmed

Miriam and Mohamed are working together on three historical projects. Their first project concerns the Arabic Letters of The Prize Paper Collections, which were seized in 1759 by British seafarers as part of the loot on a Venetian ship bound for Alexandria. Virtually untouched since that time – most of the letters are still unopened – they present a most exciting opportunity to investigate the interaction between Christian, Jewish, and Muslim merchants across borders in the 18th century Mediterranean. Dozens of letters are particularly valuable, as very little comparative material in Arabic script from that period is known and virtually nothing has been edited or published on the topic.

Traders make an extremely important subject for studies on historical interfaith relations. Business activity often created the only opportunity for people of different faiths to meet in a neutral place and work for a common benefit. Commerce therefore really establishes an arena in which people deal with each other regardless of their respective religious background.

In a second project, Miriam and Mohamed are thus also working on a second batch of traders' correspondence, on Late Judaeo-Arabic mercantile letters from the Cairo Genizah (a repository of historical documents found in the Ben Ezra synagogue in Cairo's Genizah district), together with Professor Geoffrey Khan (University of Cambridge). This work will present a thorough linguistic assessment of the peculiarities of Late Judaeo-Arabic documents, thereby opening up the *letter corpora* of Jewish traders from Egypt and North-Africa for historians and linguists, and giving insights into the history of merchant trading networks of the Ottoman period.

A third project investigates Judaeo-Arabic and Arabic Poetry in the Cairo Genizah as an important resource to the study of knowledge transfer and of Jewish-Muslim relations in the medieval period. The project aims to explore hitherto neglected, yet extremely important body of Arabic poetry in the Cairo Genizah: questions arise, such as what does poetry teach us about literacy and education in the Jewish communities, which connections were there between Muslim and Jewish intellectual circles engaging with poetry, and during which period was the majority of the extant Arabic poetry preserved in the Genizah?



### Dr Esther-Miriam Wagner Director of Research Acting Director January-June 2019

Miriam is a philologist and sociolinguist, and works on medieval and early modern manuscripts. Her research focuses on the Cairo Genizah, Judaeo-Arabic, sociolinguistics, the Arabic Prize Papers and Yiddish. Miriam is the editor-in-chief of *al-Masaq, Journal of the Medieval Mediterranean*, and an Affiliated Lecturer at the University of Cambridge, where she teaches in the Muslim-Jewish Relations MPhil course.

Miriam will be the Acting Director of the Institute while Dr Ed Kessler, Founder Director, is on sabbatical January-June 2019.



### Dr Mohamed Ahmed Affiliated Researcher

Together with Miriam, Mohamed continues the work on the translation and the analysis of Arabic business letters from the 18th Century, for the project "From Tuscany to Alexandria: Arabic and Hebrew mercantile letters in the Prize Paper collections". The work on the first planned volume is almost done. Mohamed is also helping Miriam in the preparation of the Ottoman Arabic handbook. He continues to work with Professor Geoffrey Khan and Miriam on late Judaeo-Arabic mercantile correspondence in the Cairo Genizah. Mohamed is also working on the first draft of the typescript of the book *The Use of Arabic in Modern Hebrew Texts*.

### How you can **Donate easily**

You can make a donation towards our work, by simply going online  
<https://woolf.charitycheckout.co.uk/donate>

## Uncovering Fundamentalism(s)

Tobias Müller & Dr Ed Kessler

In the two-year research project, Uncovering Fundamentalism(s), Dr Ed Kessler and Junior Research Fellow Tobias Müller will investigate how and why fundamentalist beliefs and practices function. The project aims to understand the attraction of fundamentalist beliefs, particularly to young people in Western Europe. The research analyses contemporary dynamics in both Abrahamic and non-Abrahamic religious fundamentalism in a variety of spatial contexts across the UK.

It has been commonly accepted that the secularisation thesis is incorrect and that religion will not disappear in the modern world. However, the fact that fundamentalist religious tendencies are not declining either is less acknowledged. On the contrary, non-violent fundamentalism particularly seems to be on the rise in Western Europe and across the globe. Since fundamentalism is here to stay, it is crucial for our society to understand its attractiveness, particularly to young people. Not least, we need to consider how society should, or can, accommodate, or be accommodated by, fundamentalists.

The project will examine shared characteristics between different expressions of fundamentalism, such as: the role of patriarchy; the role of modern science and truth claims; the relation to the nation state; the apparently anti-pluralist attributes; the importance of charismatic leadership; the desire to return to a golden or mythic age; and the influence of secularism and globalisation. It is hoped that it will provide the basis for a longer-term study of religious fundamentalism.



### Tobias Müller Junior Research Fellow

Tobias Müller joined the Woolf in October 2018. He is working on the Institute's project 'Uncovering Fundamentalism(s)', with Dr Ed Kessler. The project aims to understand the attractiveness of fundamentalisms, particularly amongst young people, and how this is linked to contested gender roles and frequently tense relations with the modern state.

In his PhD 'Localising secular power: Muslims and the state in diverse urban neighbourhoods in the UK and Germany', he investigated how the British government engages with Muslims at local and national levels and challenges us to rethink the role of the state in these interactions.



Image:  
John Fahy

## From Intolerance to Inclusion

Dr Julian Hargreaves & Dr Ed Kessler

This project addresses concerns expressed across the media about rising levels of intolerance and hostility on the grounds of religion, ethnicity and nationality. The project will measure and map patterns of intolerance across England and Wales, and establish what works at the local level to improve inclusion between more divided communities. The project will begin by collecting the statistical evidence needed to understand and help move such communities from intolerance to inclusion. The project's main output will be a heatmap showing local patterns of intolerance, based on religion, ethnicity and nationality. This mapping exercise will combine available statistical data (from the Census, the *Crime Survey of England and Wales* and *Understanding Society*) alongside more bespoke primary data collection. The project's target audience includes policy-makers, journalists and students with interests related to social policies, especially those concerning religious and ethnic minority communities, immigration, social cohesion integration, and justice. Overall, the project aims to move beyond speculation and towards a more evidence-based approach to tackling intolerance.



### Dr Julian Hargreaves Research Fellow

Julian's main research interests are: British Muslim communities; issues around anti-Muslim discrimination and hate crime; relations between Muslim communities and the state; and community responses to radicalisation and extremism. These interests are pursued using mixed research methods and evidence-based approaches that include the analysis of large-scale social survey statistics alongside the use of interviews and focus groups.

Julian's recent work has been published in the *British Journal of Criminology* and *Ethnic and Racial Studies* and presented to the Royal Statistical Society.

## Religious Sisterhood: Encounters of Gender, Religion & Belonging in the UK

Dr Lea Taragin-Zeller

This ethnographic study focuses on the emergence of grassroots female interfaith initiatives, analysing the creative ways religious women negotiate their challenges and struggles as women of faith, together.

Scholars of religion show that various religious groups are currently questioning the accepted norms, ideologies and practices in their communities. These studies show how religious members struggle to integrate sacred texts and ways of life with contemporary ideals and practices. This scholarship has also revealed how women are expressing discontent with their one-dimensional gender roles and some are even clamouring openly for reform. Scholars have examined the emergence of egalitarian readings of traditional texts, legal issues in marriage and divorce, as well as historical re-readings of women's literary expressions and historical experiences. Whereas former studies have often focused on distinct groups and analysed the particular ways religious members make sense of their inner-communal conflicts, this study takes a comparative approach to the study of gender and religion. By focusing on the emergence of Jewish-Muslim female interfaith initiatives, this study furthers the understanding of gender and religion by examining the ways women from different religious backgrounds come together as they debate, struggle and critique traditional gender ideals rooted in male leadership and authority.



### Dr Lea Taragin-Zeller Research Fellow

Lea Taragin-Zeller is a Research Fellow at the Woolf Institute. Her academic interests lie at the intersection between gender, text, body and religion.

At the Woolf Institute, she is currently working on a comparative study about female authority and leadership in contemporary Judaism and Islam.



Image:  
John Fahy



### Dr Abigail Wood Sir Mick and Lady Davis Visiting Fellow

Previously Abigail was Lecturer in Ethnomusicology in the Department of Music, University of Haifa. She completed her PhD on *Yiddish song in contemporary North America* at Cambridge, in 2004, supervised by Dr Ruth Davis. She lectured in Music at Southampton University from 2002-6, and moved to take up the Joe Loss Lectureship in Jewish Music at SOAS, University of London in 2006. In 2013 her book *'And we're all brothers': Singing in Yiddish in contemporary North America* was published. Abigail's current research interests include contemporary klezmer and Yiddish song, music in Jewish-Christian relations and music in immigrant communities in contemporary Israel.



### Dr Gorazd Andrejč Affiliated Lecturer

Dr Gorazd Andrejč is a Slovenian philosopher, having studied at the universities of Maribor, Cambridge and Exeter. His research focuses on religious language and the ways in which we conceive belief-attitudes and significant experiences, especially in the context of interreligious and religious-secular relations, perceptions, communication, and (dis)agreements. His recent book *Wittgenstein and Interreligious Disagreement* has been published by Palgrave MacMillan.

Gorazd is one of our Online Course Tutors.

### How you can help Research

We integrate our academic research with practical education that targets audiences as diverse as police and doctors, teachers and clergy, diplomats and policy makers. All our research projects are designed to include policy and public education outputs in addition to academic outputs.

You can help us make an impact on society by supporting our research. To donate towards research, contact us for details:  
[www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/fundraising](http://www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/fundraising) or [development@woolf.cam.ac.uk](mailto:development@woolf.cam.ac.uk)

## Our Students



### Samuel Victor PhD Scholar

Samuel Victor was awarded the Woolf Institute Cambridge Scholarship to commence his PhD studies in 2018-2019. Samuel's PhD in Social Anthropology is supervised by Dr Joel Robbins. His research examines relational ethics in evangelical Christian outreach to Muslims in the US. He explores the avowed commitment of some evangelicals to respect religious diversity and develop common civic objectives with religious others. In the past decade, a multidisciplinary literature has coalesced around the concept of 'conviviality'. Generally speaking, this literature seeks to develop social theory for explaining the different ways in which cross-cultural understanding, strategies for negotiating differences and a sense of togetherness are fostered (or not) among diverse populations. By focusing on the moral dimension of conviviality, Samuel asks: what are the ambitions that shape this new evangelical social engagement? What are the social and ethical tensions that arise as evangelicals manage competing values and navigate the complex relationship between exclusivism and pluralism?



### Chris Cooper-Davies Honorary PhD Scholar

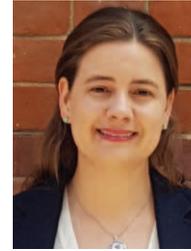
Chris Cooper-Davies is an AHRC Doctoral Scholar in History at St John's College and an Honorary PhD Scholar at the Woolf Institute.

His research will explore the social, cultural and political manifestations of sectarian identities in mandatory and monarchical Iraq (1918-1958), looking specifically at how processes of colonialism and state and nation building facilitated the reconfiguration and politicisation of Sunni and Shi'i Iraqi identities. Before beginning his PhD, Chris received an MA in Middle Eastern History from SOAS (2016) and a BA (Hons) in History from Queen Mary, University of London (2014).

### How you can help Students

Some bright students are deterred from applying to the Woolf due to the financial implications. In order to attract the best students, we offer a range of support to meet the cost of course fees and living expenses.

A small regular donation from you can go far towards significantly supporting a student;  
[www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/fundraising](http://www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/fundraising) or [development@woolf.cam.ac.uk](mailto:development@woolf.cam.ac.uk)



### Gretchen Belnap MPhil Student

Gretchen's MPhil dissertation focused on the transmission of Islamic devotional poetry in the Cairo Genizah, a repository of medieval Jewish manuscripts, analysing a number of previously unexamined medieval Judaeo-Arabic poems in the collection. She reflects on her time at the Woolf Institute:

'I am grateful to have had the opportunity to study the MPhil in Muslim-Jewish Relations, a pathway within the MPhil in Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies at the University of Cambridge's Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies. I am deeply appreciative of the scholarship provided to me by the Woolf Institute and the Cambridge Trust, which made my study at Cambridge possible in the first place.'



### Rodrigo Garcia-Velasco Bernal PhD Candidate

Rodrigo's project, supervised by Professor David Abulafia, and co-supervised by Dr Esther-Miriam Wagner, focuses on the treatment of Jews and Muslims in the Iberian Peninsula between the eleventh and thirteenth centuries, during the period of Christian expansion over the previously Muslim-dominated territories of al-Andalus. He is in the process of submitting.



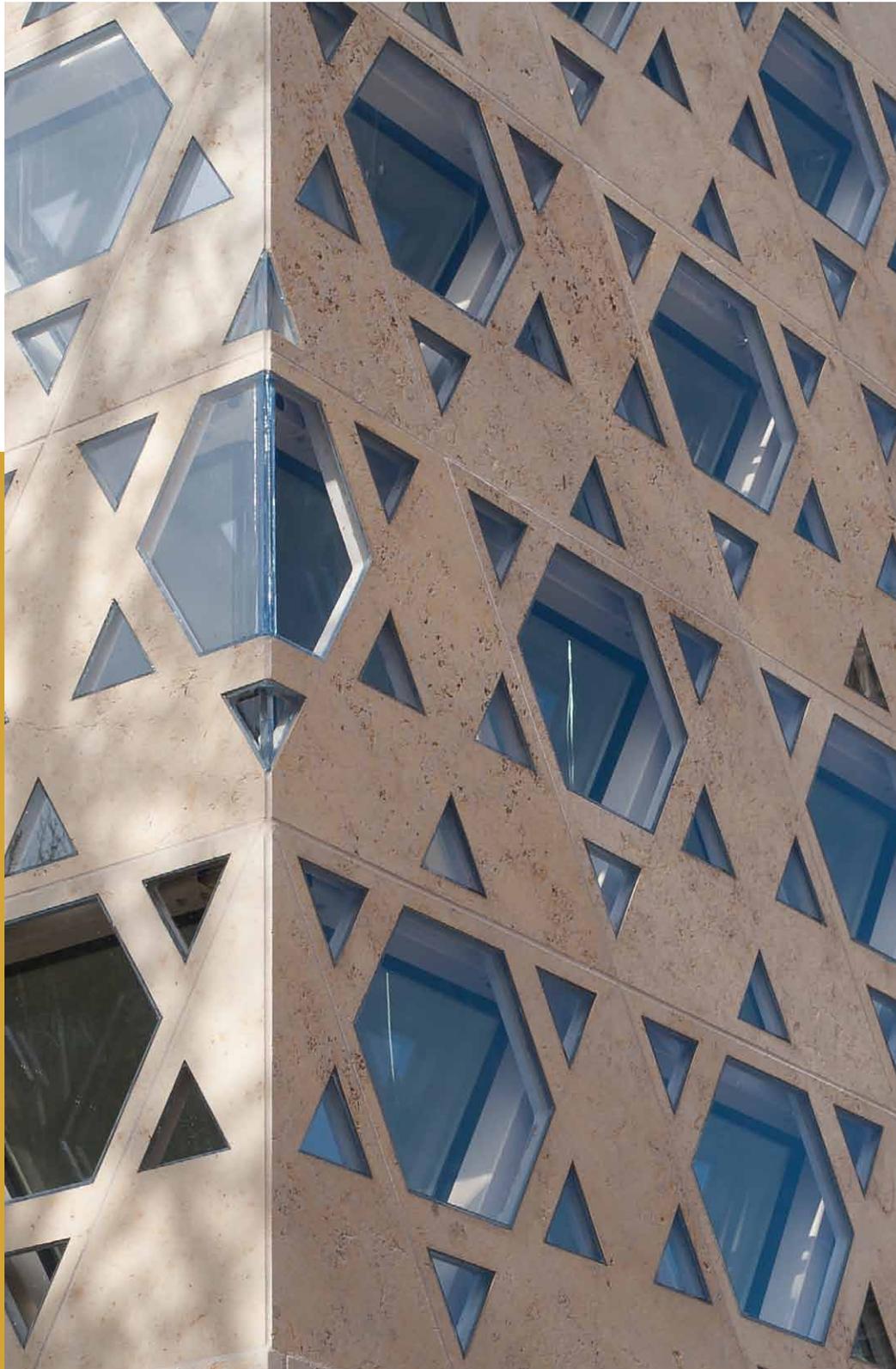
### Jessica Tearney-Pearce PhD Scholar

Jessica's doctoral research investigates worship, devotional and ritual practices on ships and related to the sea in the medieval Mediterranean. The project asks what superstition, worship and devotion at sea in the medieval Mediterranean looked like; how particular practices and cult sites evolved out of and were absorbed from older traditions; and whether or not from the evidence for these we can ascertain if it is possible to speak of such a thing as 'maritime religion' or 'maritime devotion'?



### Austin Tiffany PhD Candidate

Upon completion of his PhD, Austin will take up the post of Executive Director for the International Community of the Holy Sepulchre, a new organisation that seeks to support the Christian community in the Holy Land through lobbying, fundraising, advocacy, and action. Austin's research examines contemporary interfaith training of priests and rabbis in the United Kingdom and the United States. Through this research, Austin hopes to reveal effective methods of theological and dialogical interfaith training that can contribute to a cooperative understanding of the religious other in local communities.



Synagogue in Ulm, Germany

## Reflections after 20 years Dr Ed Kessler MBE

*We are standing at a crossroads. What kind of society do we want? Will we be tribal and separate from one another, or an integrated, inclusive, welcoming society?... The crucial questions facing religions in society today are not points of detail but matters of fundamental attitude – in particular, how do we get on peaceably together and how do we live with difference?*

*Letter to the Commission on Religion and Belief in British Public Life, published in *Living with Difference: Community Diversity and The Common Good* (Woolf Institute, 2015)*

Answering this correspondent's questions is, in essence, what the Woolf Institute was created for and works towards every day.

Our vision is a society in which collaborative discussion and constructive engagement overcome prejudice and intolerance; a society at ease with itself, in which individuals, groups and communities feel at home and know that their culture and religion are part of a process of mutual enrichment and, it must be said, a society that is able to respond cohesively to the challenges and threats it may face.

I recognise this vision is not free of obscurity or ambiguity – for instance, what it means to be British or European; Israeli, Palestinian or Jordanian; Jew, Christian or Muslim is neither fixed nor final.

People in the past understood society differently from the way it is seen today. By the same token, people in the future will look back at the early 21st century and note differences from their own. As LP Hartley wrote, both the past and the future are foreign countries, they do things differently there. Yet, there are continuities.

Whilst we can know the past we can never know the future. Human life is lived towards the future, which means facing the unknown. As the saying goes, one of greatest kindnesses of God is that he doesn't let us know in advance what we are letting ourselves in for.

The task now and in the future for Woolf Institute students and staff, alumni and graduates is to serve as guardians and guides, teachers and scholars, in order to educate and preserve the lives of this and the next generation; to sustain those visionary horizons, which we need in order to remain human in a society, which somehow seems obsessively to want to be less than human.

In other words, in the next twenty years we hope everyone who crosses the threshold of our fine new building, whether virtually or electronically, will learn what it means to live peaceably together.

*The course always gives me hope that dialogue and bridge building are possible through education and learning.*

Professor Akbar Ahmed, Co-Convener Bridging the Great Divide (Ibn Khaldun Chair of Islamic Studies, American University in Washington, DC)

# Teaching

The Woolf Institute's approach is to integrate academic research with practical education that targets audiences as diverse as police and doctors, scholars and students, teachers and clergy, diplomats and policy makers, and members of local communities. Its teaching is delivered in a variety of ways: in collaboration with the University of Cambridge through undergraduate and Master's teaching and supervision of PhD students; with the Cambridge Theological Federation, for the teaching of Christian ordinands; with the Cambridge Muslim College for Imams in training; with Anglia Ruskin University in the supervision of professional doctorates; through our own summer schools and online courses open to students from around the globe and at the American University's School of International Service in Washington DC; through tailored courses for particular professions; and through media commentary, podcasts, documentaries and public and private events, including panel discussions, exhibitions and concerts.

## Online Courses

The Woolf Institute's teaching extends to online courses, which are open to participants from around the world. These address various aspects of relations between the Abrahamic faiths; interactions with those of other faiths, or none; and how such interactions contribute to society and politics in the twenty-first century. Woolf Institute online courses are open to and taken by people from all walks of life, of many different beliefs (including those with none) and of a variety of different backgrounds. They are given the opportunity to gain a refreshing perspective on interfaith relations, and to engage with their fellow participants, sharing experiences and conversations with one another.

The online format of the courses makes them accessible to people from a wide range of backgrounds and enables individuals who might otherwise never interact for geographical, financial and other reasons to meet one another virtually and engage in discussions about how religion affects our lives and interactions in many different ways. Students address a range of topics centred on the course's theme and are encouraged to engage with one another and respectfully test one another's arguments and opinions in appropriate ways. They are supported and mediated by Woolf Institute staff and scholars.

In this 'virtual space', participants have, over the years, interacted and engaged with individuals from Algeria, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Canada, Chile, China, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, France, Georgia, Germany, Guernsey, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kosovo, Kuwait, Morocco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Pakistan, Palestine, Poland, Republic of Ireland, Russia, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, Slovenia, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

Further details about our online courses are available

[www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/study/online-courses](http://www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/study/online-courses)

*The course exposed me to a variety of theological, political and social debates in religious studies. Through the readings, virtual interactions and convenor's mediation, I could learn not only more about Abrahamic faiths in general but also developments in contemporary interfaith dialogue. It was a very stimulating experience. Religion is... enabled me to explore new theoretical avenues, which have substantially contributed to the elaboration of my own research.*

Manoela (Religion is... 2017)

## Online Courses

Explore the history, culture and theology of Muslims and Jews, reflecting both on similarities and differences as well as discussing the major challenges in [Bridging the Great Divide: the Jewish-Muslim Encounter](#).

Gain insights into different kinds of interreligious understanding between the Abrahamic religions and beyond, and study their relationship with secularism in [Interreligious Understanding Today](#).

Examine historical trends, religious and cultural interaction, and issues of contemporary citizenship in [Jews, Christians and Muslims in Europe: Modern Challenges](#).

Discover the complex effects that migration has on our identities and interreligious relations, and explore the impact of religious and secular identities on European and Asian attitudes to migration in [Migration, Religion and Identity](#).

Develop your understanding of the Abrahamic faiths through themes such as sacred spaces, religious leadership and religious 'fundamentalism' in [Religion is...](#)

Engage with literature to understand the narrative of deep-seated prejudices and recognise the value of dialogue to dispel these views in [Representations of Jewish-Christian Relations in Literature](#).

Courses run between 9 and 16 weeks. Find out more about our Online Courses [www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/study](http://www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/study)

### How you can help Teaching

Our tutors are at the cutting edge, as our research feeds directly into our teaching. That means our students benefit directly from the experience of their teachers and the holistic approach of the Institute.

You can ensure a better future for interfaith relations across the world by supporting our teaching, to find out more:

[www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/fundraising](http://www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/fundraising) or [development@woolf.cam.ac.uk](mailto:development@woolf.cam.ac.uk)



Image: John Fahy



Image: Richard Nixon

## Diversity in End of Life Care

The Woolf Institute Diversity in End of Life Care training programme is delivered to nurses, hospital chaplains, doctors, healthcare professionals and volunteers. The aim of the course is to empower clinical and non-clinical staff to enhance the care that they provide to patients and relatives. During the Woolf Institute-led study day they become more knowledgeable of, and confident in, offering care, empathy, and compassion to all patients. They are trained to better understand various religious, social and cultural practices that surround death and dying. Course participants become more comfortable offering help and advice to people with different beliefs and customs, who are approaching the end of their life.

The Woolf Institute has delivered this training in hospitals and hospices in London, Edinburgh, Cardiff and across the country.

More information [www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/training/healthcare](http://www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/training/healthcare)



### Naved Siddiqi Tutor, Diversity in End of Life Care

Naved Siddiqi is a social scientist whose special interests include faith issues in palliative care. Naved was a Research Fellow of the Policy Research Centre, which specialised in policy concerns on civil issues and faith. He led the centre's training and has delivered teaching to over 1,500 participants across the public and third sector on issues of identity, integration, social change and extremism. Naved has a Law degree and was tutored in Theology and in Islamic Social and Political History by the late Professor Zaki Badawi.

## Summer Schools

1-14 July 2019: Religion and Society from the Medieval to the Modern

15-28 July 2019: New Neighbours: Diverse Parishes

The Summer Schools offer programmes of study for students drawing on the research and teaching expertise of academics and doctoral scholars at the Woolf Institute, as well as academics of the University of Cambridge. Participants will sit alongside Master's students from the Cambridge Theological Federation who are working towards one of four MA degrees recently accredited by Anglia Ruskin University. Participants have the opportunity to undertake one Summer School as an accredited MA module, or to choose to take one or more for personal development and receive a Woolf Institute Certificate of Completion.

Led by Dr Julian Hargreaves, [New Neighbours: Diverse Parishes](#) adopts a multidisciplinary approach to questions and debates around citizenship, identity, integration, cohesion, migration, and discrimination within religiously and ethnically diverse communities in the UK. The module will be divided into an introduction to the main themes, an exploration of the key theoretical frameworks (national identity, nationalism, and racism, for example) and the key evidence-based studies pertaining to the themes described above.

Led by Dr Esther-Miriam Wagner, [Religion and Society from the Medieval to the Modern](#) examines the interactions between religion and society and between the different religious communities, with a focus on Jews and Muslims, in the Middle East, southern Europe and the Balkans from the medieval era to modern times.

For further information and how to apply [www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/study/summer-schools](http://www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/study/summer-schools)



Image: John Fahy



## Podcasts & Documentaries

The Woolf Institute has recently developed two series of podcasts. The first, *Encounter*, with Ed Kessler, is a panel discussion exploring the relationship between religion and society. Ed and guests navigate their way through some of society's most debated topics. Episodes have covered issues as diverse as faith schools, being offended, mental health, football and music.

The second series is *The A-Z of Believing: From Atheism to Zealotry*, which is also presented by Ed and unfolds as a 26-week introduction to religion's interaction with wider society. What role does atheism play in religious belief? Is beauty a channel to the divine, or the road to iconoclasm? How is conversion experienced by Christians, Jews and Muslims? A transcription of each episode has been published weekly in *The Independent* since August 2018.

Woolf Institute podcasts can be listened to at <https://woolfpods.wordpress.com> or found on iTunes and Spotify.

The Institute is also developing a series of in-house documentaries on aspects of its work, which can be seen on YouTube. The first, *The Woolf Institute Presents the Pontanima Choir*, features the 2018 visit by this award-winning interreligious choir, whose repertoire reflects the Christian, Muslim and Jewish traditions of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The film tells the story of Dr Nedžad Avdić's survival of the Srebrenica massacre, framed with music and interviews by the choir.

A second film, *Kol Echad: Living in Harmony*, tells the fascinating story of Anglican musician Charles Garland Verrinder, a composer and organist of the West London Synagogue (1859-1904), whose music is performed by local Cambridge choir, Kol Echad. Danielle Padley, the choir's director, explains the story behind Verrinder and his compositions.

Both documentaries, and much more Woolf Institute content, are being planned and can be seen on the Institute's YouTube channel, go to [www.youtube.com/WoolfInstitute](http://www.youtube.com/WoolfInstitute)

# Library

Housed in a state-of-the-art contemporary space overlooking the grounds of Westminster College, the Woolf Institute Library, with its bespoke furniture, shelving and lighting, offers an excellent and congenial space in which to study and work. The two floors are connected by an atrium-like spiral staircase and offer spaces for up to 20 desks among the bookshelves.

Our entrance display changes its little exhibition termly and has featured artefacts found during the earliest stages of the building process, many of which date back to Roman times, and gifts to the Institute, such as our Qatari Desert Rose. Here, we also showcase the most recent publications by Woolf Institute staff.

An elegant and versatile space, the Library is also where our termly 'Library Talks' series take place. Presented in the lower level of the Library, the talks are open to all and have featured excellent speakers, with subjects ranging from 'Sermonic Responses to the Holocaust, 1933-1945; to a visual case study based on the book 'The Struggle for Jerusalem's Holy Places', and 'Emmanuel Levinas on Morality after the Failure of Morality'.

Increasingly, the Library's collections are expanding to reflect the more specialist focus of our academic research staff, postgraduate students and academic visitors. Useful recent donations have greatly added to what we can offer. These have included funds to buy academic reference works published by Brill, Routledge, Oxford University Press and Cambridge University Press, a complete set of the *Encyclopedia of Islam*, key Jewish, Christian and Muslim texts on medieval philosophy and core texts on aspects of Middle Eastern History. We also received a generous bequest from the library of a Cambridge academic and his wife, which include a small handwritten 19th Century West African manuscript thought to be an example of a 'travelling Qur'an'.



The Library is overseen by [Susanne Jennings](#), who read Theology at Cambridge and is also an alumna of the Woolf Institute. A professional chartered librarian, Susanne has worked in Cambridge University libraries for the past 15 years. She currently combines her work at the Woolf with that of part-time College Librarian at St Edmund's College. She combines her experience as a professional librarian with her specialist knowledge in her work at the Institute.

## A Selection of Recent Publications

Dr Mohamed Ahmed, *Iraqi Jews: from Baghdad to Exile* (EMDCO, 2018) [in Arabic].

Dr Jan-Jonathan Bock et al, *Beyond Dialogue? Interfaith Engagement in Delhi, Doha & London* (Georgetown University & Woolf Institute, 2018).

Dr Sami Everett, 'Interfaith Dialogue and Faith-Based Social Activism in a State of Emergency: laïcité and the Crisis of Religion in France', in: *International Journal of Politics, Culture, and Society*, 2018, pp1-18.

Dr John Fahy, 'Out of sight, out of mind: managing religious diversity in Qatar', in: *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*, 2018, pp 1-23.

Dr Julian Hargreaves, 'Police Stop and Search within British Muslim Communities: Evidence from the Crime Survey 2006-11', in: *British Journal of Criminology*, 2018, pp 1-22.

Dr Ed Kessler 'A Theology of Jewish-Christian Relations: Construction of the Common Good', in: *Righting Relations after the Holocaust and Vatican II* (Paulist Press, 2018), pp 45-57.

Dr John Mueller, 'The Prodigy? The Schocken Department Store and its Colleagues' in: Antje Borrmann et al. (eds.), *Konsum und Gestalt, Leben und Werk von Salman Schocken und Erich Mendelsohn vor 1933 und im Exil* (Hentrich und Hentrich, 2017) pp 140-151.

Dr Lea Taragin-Zeller with Nurit Stadler, 'Like a Snake in Paradise: Fundamentalism, Gender and Taboos in the Haredi Community' in: *Archives des Sciences Sociales des Religions*, 2017, No. 177 pp 133-156.

Dr Esther-Miriam Wagner et al, *Studies in Semitic Linguistics and Manuscripts: A Liber Discipulorum in Honour of Professor Geoffrey Khan* (Acta Universitatis Upsaliensis, 2018).

## How you can help The Library

The Library has benefited from a donation left in a Will. We are a registered charity and there may be tax benefits in you doing so too.

For many people, a gift in their Will is a good way to make a significant and lasting contribution. It may cost nothing in your lifetime, yet provide much satisfaction and peace of mind. There is an opportunity to make a real difference, even for those with current financial commitments.

[www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/fundraising](http://www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/fundraising) or [development@woolf.cam.ac.uk](mailto:development@woolf.cam.ac.uk)



Sant'Ignazio, Rome

## Planning for the Future

### 35 by 35

Moving into the Woolf Institute's permanent home in September 2017 was a very significant milestone. The Institute's work and positive impact have increased steadily. We have seen people from around the world and from a wide variety of backgrounds, interact with our work. What they all share is an interest in how human interactions are affected by different beliefs about God. Our work is enriched and further disseminated by our online students, visiting academics, alumni, MPhil and PhD students, supporters, visitors to our events and participants in our community-delivered courses. As we have settled into our new building we are planning a future of even greater-impact research and education.

Although we are celebrating 20 years of working to improve the understanding between people of different beliefs, particularly Christians, Jews and Muslims, we recognise that so much more needs to be done. To secure our work for the coming years and support those people around the world who wish to access our learning opportunities to better understand one another, we aim to raise £35 million in revenue and endowment funding by the time of our 35th anniversary – 35 by 35.

There are many ways in which you can help. With a gift of any size you can contribute to a Woolf Institute endowment for your area of interest, or to give for current revenue requirements. You can direct your gifts to the Woolf Institute work that you wish: online course bursaries, student scholarships, research, public education and policy events and publications, the library, or the cultural and academic events programmes and much more.

More information is given throughout this calendar of events and online at [www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/fundraising](http://www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/fundraising) or contact Helen Cornish directly, if you want to discuss ways in which you can help us [development@woolf.cam.ac.uk](mailto:development@woolf.cam.ac.uk)

## New Staff



**Amy Rhys-Davies**  
 Director of Services & Administration  
 Company Secretary

Amy's responsibilities at the Woolf Institute include financial and business planning, health & safety, and maintenance of the Institute's new building.

With a background in asset and centre management, both in London and Cambridge, she most recently managed Lion Yard Shopping Centre in central Cambridge. During her time at Lion Yard, Amy oversaw large refurbishment projects, prepared and managed budgets and took an active role in strategy and development. She supported the local business community through her role as Board Director for Cambridge Business Improvement District and regularly lobbied local government on key issues.



**Dr John F Mueller**  
 Alumni & Supporter Relations Manager

After writing his PhD on Jewish-Christian relations in a socio-economic context under Professor Sir Richard Evans, John has embarked on a portfolio career, mainly in fundraising, but also expanding his research and teaching. He is Alumni & Supporter Relations Manager at the Woolf Institute, alongside being Director of Studies in History at St Edmund's College, Cambridge, which enjoy a close academic affiliation with each other.

John is currently preparing and filming a feature-length documentary on the history of Jewish retailers for German national television, to be aired late spring 2019. In his spare time, John is a trustee of the largest independent sheltered housing scheme in London and of a charity overseeing the refurbishment of St Giles', a listed church in Cambridge.

### How you can get involved with The Institute

John is always keen to hear from Alumni and Supporters of the Woolf Institute and those interested in his research [jfm39@cam.ac.uk](mailto:jfm39@cam.ac.uk)

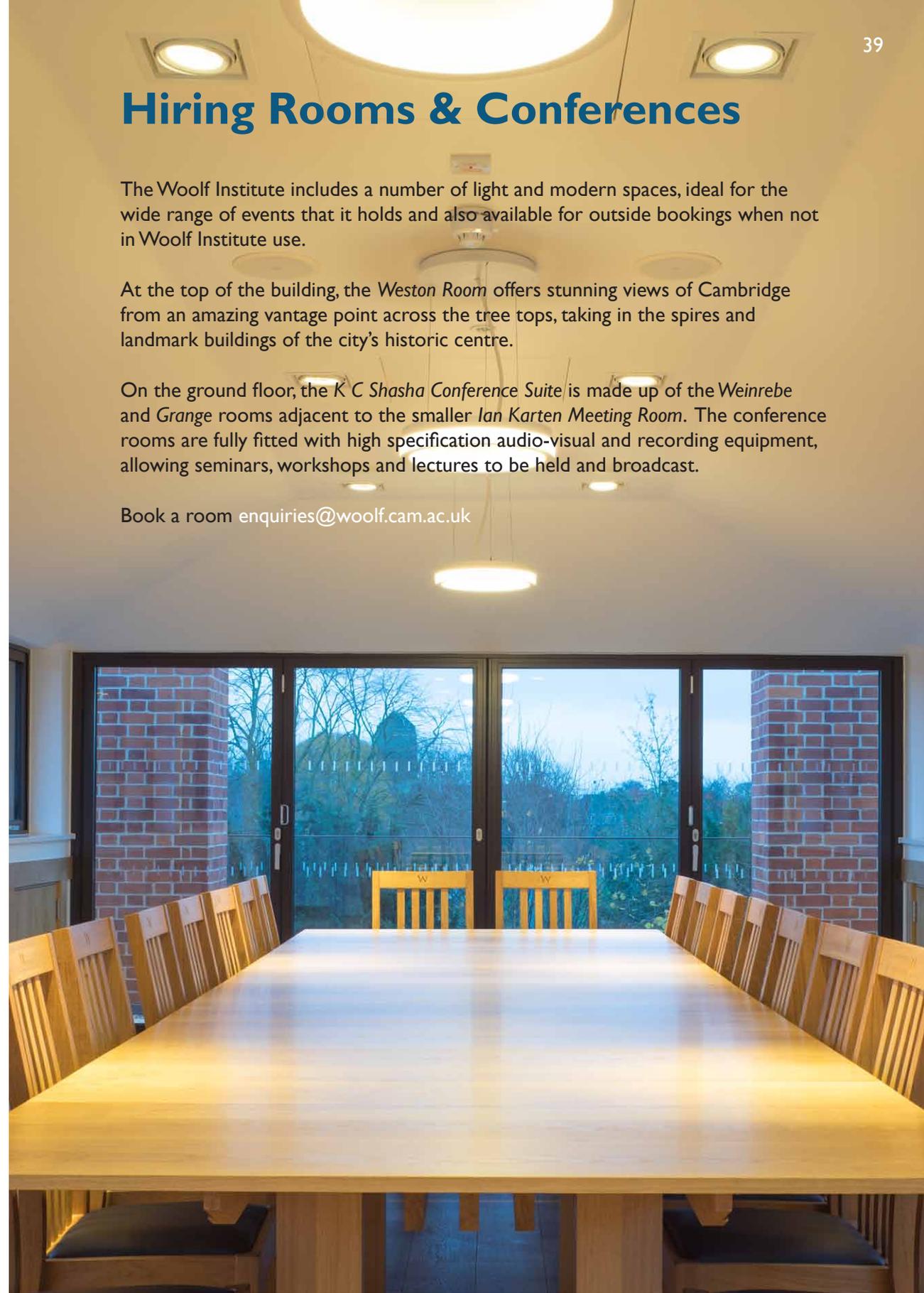
## Hiring Rooms & Conferences

The Woolf Institute includes a number of light and modern spaces, ideal for the wide range of events that it holds and also available for outside bookings when not in Woolf Institute use.

At the top of the building, the *Weston Room* offers stunning views of Cambridge from an amazing vantage point across the tree tops, taking in the spires and landmark buildings of the city's historic centre.

On the ground floor, the *K C Shasha Conference Suite* is made up of the *Weinrebe* and *Grange* rooms adjacent to the smaller *Ian Karten Meeting Room*. The conference rooms are fully fitted with high specification audio-visual and recording equipment, allowing seminars, workshops and lectures to be held and broadcast.

Book a room [enquiries@woolf.cam.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@woolf.cam.ac.uk)



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Charity No **1069589**  
 Company No **3540878**

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