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From the Founder Director  
Dr Ed Kessler MBE

We are delighted to present the Woolf Institute Calendar for 2019/20, which marks our 21st year. As ever, all our activities are focused on improving understanding and increasing tolerance between people of different beliefs, with a focus on Judaism, Christianity and Islam, and we hope you will continue to be a part of the journey that we are making together.

I have recently returned from sabbatical and spent 6 months reflecting on two perspectives which, I feel, are becoming increasingly (and worryingly) common: one suggests, ‘I know who I am because I am not you’; the second, ‘I know who I am and I don’t need you’.

At the Woolf Institute, we reject both perspectives. We can’t define ourselves by ourselves. We can only define ourselves in the presence of others. Our focus over the next 5 years will address the increasing polarisation we encounter in society. Our programmes will be based, of course, on robust academic research, which shapes the Institute’s education, training, outreach and policy initiatives.

One of my personal goals is for the Institute to be more widely heard, encouraging diversity of opinion, and reminding everyone who crosses our threshold that we discover what it means to be human when we truly see others as human, like us; when we appreciate their history, their community and their values; when we avoid the trap of demonising those whom we don’t know.

The Calendar will give you a flavour of our work this year, but there is no substitute for seeing things in person, so if you are able to join us for the events, or would like to arrange a separate visit, we look forward to welcoming you.

Further details can be found at www.woolf.cam.ac.uk and new information will be uploaded as the year progresses.

None of this would happen without the support of our generous donors and we are extraordinarily grateful to everyone who makes this important work possible.

Thank you.
Lord Woolf, Patron, and Lord Blair, Chair of Trustees, at a Dinner marking the end of the Woolf Institute’s 20th Anniversary year. (c) Theo Wood

Dr Esther-Miriam Wagner, Executive Director, and Dr Ed Kessler MBE, Founder Director
Dr Wagner appointed Executive Director

At the June 2019 meeting the Board of Trustees, in consultation with Dr Ed Kessler, agreed that Dr Esther-Miriam Wagner would be appointed as the Institute’s Executive Director from 1 July 2019.

Miriam has been the Director of Research for several years and was Acting Director for the Institute during Dr Kessler’s sabbatical January-June 2019. Our vision for the Woolf Institute’s future involves both Dr Kessler and Dr Wagner playing to their strengths. Our Founder Director’s prominence in the media allows him to raise the public profile of the Institute, while Dr Wagner will take overall responsibility for the day to day operation of the Institute.

As Executive Director, she is involved in all strategic and operational plans and in the development and coordination of research projects, working closely with our Research Fellows. She also teaches on the MPhil in Middle Eastern Studies: Muslim-Jewish Relations. Miriam will continue to be supported by Helen Cornish, Dr Emma Harris and Amy Rhys-Davies.

The Trustees wish Ed, Miriam and all their colleagues all the best, as we start this exciting new stage in the history of the Woolf Institute.
Autumn 2019

Stand-up Comedy **Prophet Sharing**
10 October, 7.30pm

Two great religions. Two great comedians. The descendants of Abraham may have gone their separate ways but now stand-up comedian friends Ashley Blaker and Imran Yusuf - both stars of their own BBC shows - are joining forces in the most unlikely double-act since Kermit and Miss Piggy (who neither Ashley nor Imran can eat!). Originally brought together by a passion for the same football team, the pair are visiting the Woolf Institute, uniting people of every faith and none for an evening of laughter.

This event is presented by So Comedy & Broken Robot Productions. Contact enquiries@woolf.cam.ac.uk
Book £20/£10 at https://prophetsharing.eventbrite.co.uk

Book Launch **Dominion**
17 October, late afternoon, see website for details

Historian and author Tom Holland’s hotly anticipated new history of Christianity, *Dominion*, will be released this autumn. The book discusses the influence of the Christian faith on western society in a historic and modern context. Join us for the launch, where Tom will give a talk, take questions from the audience and sign copies.

Contact Dr Patrick Nash pn315@cam.ac.uk

Workshop **Beyond Sectarianism**
24-25 October, all day

This workshop brings together scholars working on issues of individual and group identity to study intra-communal antagonism. Questions to be addressed include: How can we move beyond essentialist or instrumental understandings of identity politics? How are the politics of sectarianism implicated in wider political and social projects, including secularism, liberalism and the ‘War on Terror’? Keynote: Dr Maia Carter Hallward (Kennesaw State University)

Contact Emanuelle Degli Esposti 526730@soas.ac.uk

All events take place at the Woolf Institute, unless stated otherwise.
Panel Discussion Is Religion a Positive Force for Change?
15 October, 5pm

Muslim, Christian and Jewish thought-leaders discuss to what extent religion can contribute to positive change, using examples of success, without ignoring failings. The Revd Canon Chris Chivers (Principal, Westcott House), Dr Atif Imtiaz and Dr Ed Kessler.

Panel Discussion Hope and Fear in Response to Religious Diversification
22 October, 5pm, Keynes Hall, King’s College, Cambridge

The Leader of Brent Council, Cllr Muhammed Butt, activists from London and academics from Cambridge discuss how to respond to the rapidly evolving challenges of economic deprivation, racism, Islamophobia, extremism and gender-based discrimination in the UK’s most ethnically and religiously diverse areas.

Talk Why Do Languages Keep Evolving?
23 October, 2pm

Dr Esther-Miriam Wagner will discuss why languages keep on changing, the differences between the various types of languages, how people create new language forms and force languages apart, and what makes easy-to-learn languages.

All events can be booked at www.festivalofideas.cam.ac.uk

Seminar Woolf Tolerance Index
29 October, 5pm

Dr Julian Hargreaves will share the emergent findings of the latest Woolf Institute research on intolerance and tolerance nationally and recommend ways to improve inclusion between communities. Our research will create an index, published annually, which will present findings on ‘what works’ and offer guidance to local and national policy-makers who are interested in fostering tolerance and openness in UK’s diverse communities.

Contact Claire Curran cc640@cam.ac.uk
Workshop Al-Maqam: Faith and Music in the Middle East
Late October/Early November, 10am-5pm, London location

In collaboration with Mr Ahmed Mukhtar (Taqasim Music School), the acclaimed Iraqi oud virtuoso, the Woolf Institute will present three events to take place in London over the coming academic year. The series is part of our Living in Harmony project, which is exploring diasporic faith communities from the Middle East through music and encounter. The programmes will address Arabic music history and theory, the role of Arabic music in Middle Eastern religious practices, and famous artists from the region who contributed to the development of Arabic religious and secular genres.

Contact Dunya Habash dh599@cam.ac.uk

Book Launch Jews and Muslims in South Asia
4 November, 5.00pm

Join us for the launch of Jews and Muslims in South Asia: Reflections on Difference, Religion & Race, published by Oxford University Press. The book’s author, Dr Yulia Egorova (Durham University) will be discussing her work on this important and searching study with time for questions and discussion. Following the launch, there will be a drinks reception.

Contact enquiries@woolf.cam.ac.uk

Woolf Institute Michaelmas Lecture
6 November, 5.30pm

On the Possibility of Dialogue Between Anthropology and Theology given by Professor Joel Robbins, Sigrid Rausing Professor of Social Anthropology at the University of Cambridge. His work has focused on the anthropology of religion and ethics, and, in particular, on the anthropology of Christianity. He has recently been working on the intersection between anthropology and theology, and is currently finishing a book on this subject.

Contact enquiries@woolf.cam.ac.uk
Annual Research Day
13 November, all day

‘Academic Speed-Dating’ is how our Executive Director, Dr Wagner, describes her preferred format for the Woolf Institute’s Annual Research Day. More than twenty researchers and students associated with the Institute will present their work in six-minute presentations. The aim is to give a short, accessible insight into the breadth of all our research in a single day.

There is the opportunity for informal discussions over lunch and dinner.

This is one of our most popular annual events and you are encouraged to book as soon as possible.

Book at https://woolf21.eventbrite.co.uk

Symposium Confronting Cousin Marriage
27 November, afternoon, see website for details

In this interdisciplinary symposium leading academics will discuss the controversial phenomenon of cousin marriage, covering its cultural, anthropological and social significance. Potential legal and political responses will also be considered.

Contact Dr Patrick Nash pn315@cam.ac.uk

2020

Middle Eastern History: Professional & Personal Perspectives
28 January, 5.30pm

Professor Avi Shlaim FBA, Emeritus Professor of International Relations at the University of Oxford, reflects on his personal experiences of growing up in Iraq and Israel, and his professional life as an Iraqi-Jewish academic in Britain.

Contact Dr Merav Rosenfeld-Hadad mr304@cam.ac.uk
Lecture Jerusalem: A Many-Bordered City
4 February, 5pm

This lecture, given by Prof. Michael Dumper (University of Exeter), with a response by Dr Ed Kessler, examines the dynamic nature of the borders of the city of Jerusalem and how they may impact on the nature of a political agreement between the Israelis and Palestinians. Reference will also be made to other cities with ethnic and religious divisions (e.g. Banaras, Lhasa, George Town) with a view to situating Jerusalem in a broader political context. Finally, Prof. Dumper will explore how the different historical, religious, legal and economic dimensions of the city connect and provide the basis for differing political claims and whether the ‘many-bordered city’ offers some flexibility in a negotiated agreement.

Contact Claire Curran cc640@cam.ac.uk

London Research Day
5 February, from 5pm

Chosen presenters from our Annual Research Day in November will come to London and outline their work in six-minute presentations.

Contact enquiries@woolf.cam.ac.uk

Woolf Institute Lent Lecture
Lent Term, see website for details

On Censorship, given by Anthony Julius, a highly regarded lawyer and Deputy Chairman of Mishcon de Reya. Julius is famous for his defence of Deborah Lipstadt in the David Irving v Penguin Books trial. As a recognised academic, Anthony holds the Chair in Law and Arts in the Faculty of Law, University College London and is a noted author who has written extensively on law, literature, art and culture. He will discuss a wide range of issues associated with censorship.

Contact Claire Curran cc640@cam.ac.uk
Conference Combating Climate Change: Achievements and Failures of Religious Groups
20 February, all day

The one-day conference, in association with the Faraday Institute for Science and Religion, brings together natural scientists, social scientists and faith leaders to discuss the obstacles to and possibilities of religious groups taking action on the climate emergency.
Questions to be addressed in the event include:
1. Where does the conflict between religion and the need to act on the climate crisis really lie?
2. Why do people, religious and non-religious, deny the climate crisis?
3. How should we deal with the tension between alarmism and hope?
4. How long have we got? Are we living in the end of times?

Contact Dr Tobias Müller tm498@cam.ac.uk

The Middle Eastern Judaism and Islam: Music, Culture and People Lecture Series
On Jewish-Christian Relations in Baghdad and London
25 February, 5.30pm

The Middle Eastern Judaism and Islam: Music, Culture and People Lecture Series explores the differences and commonalities of Middle Eastern cultures and peoples in three sessions. The first will be given by Dr Ayad Abdul-Ahad, an expert medical practitioner, who will be talking about his personal and professional experiences of Jewish-Christian relations.

Memoirs of Eden: A Journey through Jewish Baghdad
11 March, 5.30pm

For the second lecture, Mira and Tony Rocca, journalists and business entrepreneurs, will talk about their book on Jewish Baghdad.

Bridging between Jewish, Muslim & Christian Iraqis across the World
22 April, 5.30pm

The third lecture will be given by Niran Bassoon-Timan, Director of the Iraqi Cultural Forum in London.

Contact Dr Merav Rosenfeld-Hadad mr304@cam.ac.uk
Woolf Institute Easter Lecture
Easter Term, 5.30pm, see website for details

Subcontracting Guilt: Holocaust Memory and Immigrant Integration in Germany by Esra Özyürek, Professor in European Anthropology and Chair in Contemporary Turkish Studies at the London School of Economics and Political Science. Professor Özyürek is a political anthropologist who seeks to understand how Islam, Christianity, secularism and nationalism are dynamically positioned in relation to each other in Turkey and in Europe. She is currently writing a book about the relationships between Holocaust Memory, Anti-Semitism, Islam and Migration in Germany since World War II.

Contact enquiries@woolf.cam.ac.uk

Conference State Righteousness: Intersecting Politics of Reproduction, Religion and Right-Wing Nationalisms
13-15 May

This conference examines figurative language and underlying logics that anchor reproduction to state politics, from precarious employment, to climate change, to foreign policy. It traces fluctuations in forms of state regulation, de-regulation, and withdrawal in order to theorise how pro-ceptive and contra-ceptive technologies become bound to state-making projects.

Contact Dr Lea Taragin-Zeller lz378@cam.ac.uk

Conference Organ Donation & Faith: Legal & Religious Consent
Easter Term, see website for details

From Spring 2020, all adults in England will be deemed to consent to having their organs donated when they die, subject to certain conditions in accordance with the Organ Donation (Deemed Consent) Act 2019. This conference seeks to investigate and explore faith perspectives on organ donation and, in particular, to discuss the emerging challenges and opportunities for religious individuals and groups.

Contact Dr Esther-Miriam Wagner emw36@cam.ac.uk
The idea of interfaith dialogue in Medieval Spain (or al-Andalus) has become something of an ideological ‘commodity’, one that is traded for various social, cultural and political agendas around the world. Music is a powerful medium for performing al-Andalus as a ‘figure of thought’. Therefore, the aim of this workshop is to examine the musical ‘afterlives’ of al-Andalus - how music is harnessed by practitioners, audiences and institutions to bring al-Andalus into dialogue with various social and political issues, such as colonial authority, intercultural dialogue, nationalism, tourism and cultural diplomacy. Alongside academic papers and debate, the event will consist of a public keynote presentation by Prof. Jonathan Shannon, a music workshop and concert.

This lecture is part of a research project funded by the European Research Council. For more information visit www.musicalencounters.co.uk or contact Dr Matthew Machin-Autenrieth mm2085@cam.ac.uk

See page 37 for more information or go to www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/study/summer-schools

An informal afternoon for all Woolf Institute Alumni and Supporters hosted by the Executive Director, Dr Esther-Miriam Wagner, who will be chairing a series of short presentations by our researchers. We hope this will provide you with an insight into our current projects, upon which Woolf Institute outreach and education activities are founded. Tea and refreshments will be served and there will be an opportunity to talk to the presenters afterwards.

Although the weekend coincides with the University of Cambridge Alumni Festival, it is not exclusive to those who have studied there. In 2021 Tea at the Institute will be held on the Saturday, during the same Festival.

£5 incl. Tea & Presentations. Free Donor Ticket to anyone who has donated £25 or more in 2019/20, book at development@woolf.cam.ac.uk
At the Woolf Institute, robust academic research underpins education, training, outreach and policy work. The following pages provide an overview of research presently being undertaken, which examines contemporary and historic issues in our overall goal to address polarisation.

Our reputation as a creative, interdisciplinary research powerhouse that accelerates and challenges academic thinking is growing, but still needs to be nurtured and harnessed. We have identified three research themes to address polarisation and they form the foundation on which Woolf Institute teaching, policy and public education in all its forms are based:

1. Transformation and Religious Diversity
2. Practice and Belief
3. Religion and Society

Each theme covers potential drivers of divergence both from contemporary and historical perspectives, whilst also allowing the Institute to look at positive examples and transfer of best practice, within the same strategic framework.

For further information, see Dr Ed Kessler and Dr Esther-Miriam Wagner take part in a 17 minute video, *A Walking Tour of Woolf Institute Research Projects* online, or visit [www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/research](http://www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/research)

Dr Ed Kessler MBE is Founder Director of the Woolf Institute. He is the PI on some of the Woolf Institute’s major research projects, such as Strictly Observant Religion, Gender and the State and the Woolf Tolerance Index. He regularly appears in the media commenting on religion and belief and was Convenor of the Commission on Religion and Belief in British Public Life (2013-15).
Strictly Observant Religion, Gender and the State

The idea that religion is about to disappear in the modern world, has been proven wrong. Strictly observant religious tendencies, often labelled ‘fundamentalism’, are not declining either. Ways of life associated with liberal, secular modernity seem to be on the rise in Western Europe and across the globe. Since forms of religion that are critical of liberal mainstream attitudes, particularly with regards to gender roles and sexuality, are likely to persist, we need to address the question, why they are so attractive, particularly to young people? This question has become even more pressing in an age of rapid transformations in gender relations, as evidenced by the political and religious responses to the #MeToo movement.

The research project Strictly Observant Religion, Gender and the State (SORGES) investigates the interactions of religious groups and the state over questions of sexuality and gender. The project, led by Dr Ed Kessler and Dr Tobias Müller, asks how religious groups cooperate with, challenge and resist the different levels of state bureaucracy regarding topics such as the role of women, homosexuality, sexual abuse and sex education in schools. The project employs ethnographic fieldwork with different religious groups interacting with local and central government level state agencies in a diverse urban neighbourhood in the UK.

Dr Tobias Müller is a political theorist drawing on ethnographic data. He recently finished his PhD at the University of Cambridge and works now as a Junior Research Fellow at the Woolf Institute. His research interests include 20th century political thought, continental, post-colonial and critical political theory, politics of secularism and religion in Europe.
Woolf Tolerance Index

Deep concern is being expressed across the world and across the media about rising levels of intolerance and hostility on the grounds of ethnicity, nationality and religion. There are worries that the increase in diverse and fragmented societies is leading to a rise in hatred, polarisation and negative outcomes for individuals and communities, especially within minority contexts. To address these concerns, the Woolf Institute is measuring and mapping local patterns of intolerance based on ethnicity, nationality and religion in order to establish what works at a local level to improve inclusion in divided communities. Dr Ed Kessler and Dr Julian Hargreaves aim to establish an annually-conducted survey across England and Wales, the Woolf Tolerance Index. The work builds on previous projects at the Institute, which have sought to bridge the worlds of academia and policy, such as the Commission for Religion and Belief in British Public Life.

The project will generate evidence and knowledge needed to help move our more divided communities from intolerance to inclusion.

Dr Julian Hargreaves is a Senior Research Fellow at the Woolf Institute. Previously, he was a Research Associate at the HRH Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Centre of Islamic Studies, University of Cambridge. Julian holds an MRes (Distinction) in Criminology and a PhD in Applied Social Science, both from Lancaster University. He is a member of the Expert Group of the Commission for Countering Extremism.
A Land of Convivencia?

Dr Rodrigo Garcia-Velasco Bernal asks: was Medieval Spain a land of convivencia, or one of crusading and reconquista? Rodrigo’s research seeks to transform how we think about the integration and segregation of Jews and Muslims in Christian Iberia, trying to transcend the usual stereotypes of violence and misunderstanding, or tolerant acculturation.

Dr Rodrigo Garcia-Velasco Bernal is a Junior Research Fellow at the Woolf Institute. He recently completed his PhD in History at the University of Cambridge, being the first awardee of the Woolf Institute Cambridge Scholarship.

Image: Royal settlement grant by Alfonso VI, King of León-Castile (1192 CE). Municipal Archive of Logroño, La Rioja, Spain
Evaluating the Impact of Interfaith Dialogue

Through both research and outreach activities Dr Katherine O’Lone, working closely with Dr Julian Hargreaves, will develop a theoretical framework that will inform the development of a set of reliable indicators to measure the effectiveness of interfaith dialogue initiatives. It is hoped that the development of such a tool will be of use to researchers, academics, policy-makers and practitioners of interfaith dialogue, at both the local and grassroots level.

Dr Katherine O’Lone joined the Woolf Institute in March 2019 as a Researcher and Public Education Officer. Prior to this, she completed her PhD in Social Psychology at Royal Holloway, University of London. Her research interests include the moral psychology of extremism and the psychology of religion.

Image: An Ancient Egyptian tool for measurement
Late Judaeo-Arabic Correspondence of Ottoman Traders

Dr Esther-Miriam Wagner is preparing an edition of a corpus of 18th/19th century correspondence from Ottoman Egypt. To be published together with Prof. Geoffrey Khan and Dr Mohamed Ahmed, this work will open up the letter corpora of Jewish traders from Egypt and North Africa for historians and linguists, and give insights into the mercantile history and Jewish trade networks of the Ottoman Middle East.

Dr Esther-Miriam Wagner is the Woolf Institute’s Executive Director. She works on the Genizah housed at Cambridge University Library and on the Prize Papers Collections.

Image: Minute fragments in the Cairo Genizah Collections. Reproduced with kind permission by the Syndics of Cambridge University Library
The Prize Papers

The Prize Papers Collections in the National Archives in Kew Gardens contains a sack full of business letters in Arabic and Hebrew script. They were seized in 1759 by British seafarers as part of the loot on a Tuscan 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. Dr Esther-Miriam Wagner and Dr Mohamed Ahmed are conducting ground-breaking research into these extraordinary letters and are currently preparing a book on the collection.

Dr Esther-Miriam Wagner is the Executive Director of the Woolf Institute. Dr Mohamed Ahmed is a Senior Researcher at the Woolf Institute.

Image: An Arabic Prize Paper letter. Reproduced with kind permission by The National Archives
British Islam and English Law

The British Islam and English Law project aims to place the relationship between English civil law and British Islam on a more principled and practical footing. The theoretical aspect of the research investigates and critiques influential models for regulating religion. The applied side of the project examines multiple (non-criminal) fields of English law in order to identify problems and design reforms, with a view to reducing tensions and easing integration. This project is generously funded by Policy Exchange.

Dr Patrick Nash joined the Woolf Institute as a Research Fellow in October 2018. Before this, he completed his ESRC-funded Law PhD at the University of Bristol in 2016. He has taught at Bristol Law School and Newcastle Law School and has recently taken up a BPTC scholarship. He will be called to the Bar of England and Wales in 2019 and is a member of Lincoln’s Inn.

Image: Frederick William Maitland by Beatrice Lock
Image: Ahmed Mukhtar, courtesy of the Ismaili Centre
Living in Harmony

Dr Merav Rosenfeld-Hadad is the Co-PI on the Living in Harmony project. She focuses on the ancient Baghdadi and Ḥalabi communities who developed a fruitful and rich Jewish-Muslim-Christian cohabitation over centuries. Merav’s work concentrates on the experience and memory of the last generation of Jews to live in these cities, and covers both the periods before and after Jews left Arab countries. The project also explores the wider historical, religious and cultural context of the Arabo-Islamic civilisation.

Dr Merav Rosenfeld-Hadad is a musicologist who specialises in Arabic and Middle Eastern music and in Jewish-Christian-Muslim relations. She is a Research Fellow at the Woolf Institute. Her book Judaism and Islam: One God One Music will be published by Brill this year.

Dunya Habash is working on the Living in Harmony project, generously funded by the KC Shasha Charitable Foundation. She focuses on the cultural and social implications of musical encounters between Jewish, Muslim and Christian neighbours in historical Iraq and Syria. Dunya examines how the role of music and musical performance created a sense of communal belonging in the past and may continue to create a sense of commonality among various Middle Eastern faith communities in diaspora.

Dunya Habash is a Woolf Institute Researcher and Outreach Officer. Prior to this, she completed an MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies at the University of Oxford. She has degrees in Music and History from Birmingham-Southern College, Alabama. Dunya has also been awarded a Woolf Institute Cambridge Scholarship (see page 33).
Religious Sisterhood

Dr Lea Taragin-Zeller’s current research project *Religious Sisterhood: Encounters of Gender, Religion and Belonging in the UK* examines the ways Jewish and Muslim women come together to share common difficulties and strive to achieve social, cultural and civic change in a growing Islamaphobic and Anti-Semitic Europe. This work has been generously sponsored by Dangoor Education and The Randeree Charitable Trust.

Dr Lea Taragin-Zeller joined the Woolf Institute as a Research Fellow in 2018. She is a social anthropologist with broad research interests spanning the fields of religion, gender and sexuality studies, everyday ethics and the social study of reproduction. Lea completed her BA, MA and PhD at the Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Image: An ethnically and religiously mixed group of women enjoying each other’s company
Retailers of Jewish Origin in Germany

Dr John Mueller’s research explores the rise and fall of the German-Jewish entrepreneurial class from the gradual liberalisation of Germany’s economy and religious laws in the 19th century to the financial destruction and social despair of the 1920s and 30s. Bloomsbury will publish his forthcoming book *The Reich’s Retailer* on department stores in the context of German society, economy and politics.

John and his research recently featured in a documentary on German television *Im Kaufrausch der Geschichte*, which reached more than a million viewers. After completing his PhD under Prof. Sir Richard Evans, John has embarked on a portfolio career, continuing his research and teaching, but also working as the full-time Alumni & Supporter Relations Manager of the Woolf Institute. He is also the Director of Studies in History at St Edmund’s College, Cambridge.

Image: 1938, ‘Deutsches Geschäft’ implying the owner of Jewish origin has been forced to sell the business (Private Collection)
PhD Project **Bureaucratisation of Mosques**

Drawing on two years of intensive fieldwork in Paris and London, Amin El-Yousfi’s research focuses on the process of bureaucratisation of mosques. It documents, in real time, the fight and struggle; cooperation and compromise; misunderstanding and shared meaning-making between actors occupying different positions. The objective is to demonstrate the impact of this process on the role of local Muslim leaders, both inside and outside the mosque.

Amin El-Yousfi is a PhD candidate at the University of Cambridge’s Department of Sociology and working at the Woolf Institute. He was awarded a Woolf Institute Cambridge Scholarship in 2015. His PhD thesis focuses on local Muslim leadership in France and the UK.

Image: Interior of a British mosque
PhD Project **Interreligious community-building between Christians and Muslims**

Sam Victor’s project explores an evangelical church in Nashville, Tennessee, which has partnered with a local interfaith organisation in an effort to challenge anti-Muslim rhetoric and work toward a common civic horizon. By focusing on the churchgoers’ visions of a shared life with Muslims, his research seeks to better comprehend localised understandings of larger normative discourses on pluralism and the ethics of social relations with others that circulate within the United States and even globally.

Originally from the United States, but based in Montreal, Sam Victor began his PhD in Social Anthropology in 2018 as an awardee of a Woolf Institute Cambridge Scholarship. His previous studies include a Bachelor’s Degree in French Language and Linguistics, as well as a Master’s Degree in Anthropology from the Université de Montréal.

Image: Yard sign in Nashville, Tennessee
PhD Project Sectarian Identities in Iraq

Chris Cooper-Davies’ research investigates the political and cultural development of the Shi`i community in Iraq during the monarchical period. Utilising contemporary writings by lay and clerical Shi`i Iraqis and British archival sources, he explores how the community was affected by the formation of the quasi-colonial Iraqi nation state in 1921 and whether Shi`i sectarian political identity in Iraq was symptomatic of - rather than a conservative reaction to - processes of national integration and modernisation.

Chris Cooper-Davies is a PhD student in the University of Cambridge’s History Department and an Honorary PhD scholar at the Woolf Institute. Prior to commencing his research at Cambridge, he completed an MA in Middle Eastern History at SOAS and a BA (Hons) in History from Queen Mary, University of London.

Image: Najaf (Iraq) in the 1920s


New Scholars

MPhil Scholar Mohammed Ibrahim Ahmed

The Woolf Institute annually funds one or more MPhil scholarships for students to study and research at the University of Cambridge, basing themselves at the Institute. In 2019/20, the Willie and Jo Kessler Masters Studentship at the Woolf Institute and the Cambridge Commonwealth, European and International Trust awarded a MPhil scholarship to Mohammed Ahmed.

His project will chiefly consist of understanding and analysing the extent to which Muslim and Jewish creeds engaged with each other in the early Medieval period. He hopes to uncover how early Islamic creeds borrowed and rejected elements of the ‘Judaic creed’, and how senior figures in Judaism engaged with the Islamic creed, once it was a fully unified and codified set of principles. The research hopes to uncover the extent to which the creeds were similar. Mohammed has a BA in English and History from the University of Southampton. In his final year, he specialised in the emergence of Islam and the effects of this on existing faith groups in the Arabian Peninsula and Eastern Mediterranean.

PhD Scholar Dunya Habash

Dunya Habash was awarded a Woolf Institute Cambridge Scholarship to commence her PhD under Dr Matthew Machin-Autenrieth. Her ethnographic research will examine Syrian musicians in Turkey. Dunya hypothesises that the Syrian cultural imaginary is shifting as a result of ‘emplacement’ into Turkish society, and that this can be illustrated through musical practices.

Looking at how Syrian musicians in Turkey place themselves and how they use music to belong to an ideational community can give fresh insights into the relationships between structural forces - politics, religion, migration, economics - and inner subjectivities. Exploring how the various communities in Syria negotiate a new identity in the diaspora can not only describe Syria’s demographically rich history, for cities like Aleppo and Damascus which boast centuries of co-habitation between Muslims, Jews, Christians, Arabs, Kurds, Armenians and others; but also an exploration can test the strength of the ‘interfaith and cosmopolitan’ narrative of Syria’s national identity. This research will build on insights that Dunya developed during fieldwork for the Living in Harmony project and on her MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies at the University of Oxford.

www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/research/graduate-study
It is tempting to feel powerless in the face of the unpredictable and often irrational developments in the world of politics and inter-community dynamics - especially the often destructive developments which are on the rise today. And yet, as Dr Gorazd Andrejč, Affiliated Lecturer and Online Course Leader, puts it ‘we have seen time and again how careful study of interreligious relations through Woolf Institute’s online courses inspires and equips people to work successfully towards positive change within the sphere of their influence’. To Gorazd, it is ‘clear that basing the study of religions and interreligious relations on careful research and without prejudice is a necessary ingredient of any serious approach to addressing the challenges of today’s fast changing societies’.

Woolf Institute Online Courses are open to participants from around the world. These courses 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 21st century. The courses are open to, and taken by, people from all walks of life, of many different beliefs 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 and provides individuals who might otherwise never meet one another with a chance to do so virtually and engage in challenging and thought-provoking discussions. Students address a range of topics and are encouraged to engage with and respectfully test arguments and opinions in appropriate ways. They are supported by Woolf Institute staff, scholars and affiliated colleagues.

Further details [www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/study/online-courses](http://www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/study/online-courses)
Online Course Bursaries

Online Course Bursaries support a broad range of participants whose financial circumstances prove a barrier to study. A range of partial or full-cost bursaries are available. The bursaries reflect the Institute’s long-standing commitment to provide individuals - of all faiths and none, from different backgrounds, from all over the world and from all walks of life - the opportunity to gain understanding and knowledge in interfaith relations and to be inspired, and contribute to dialogue within their wider community and workplace.

www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/fundraising/support-students

Bridging the Great Divide: the Jewish-Muslim Encounter
13 January – 26 April 2020
This course explores the history, culture and theology of Muslims and Jews, reflecting both on similarities and differences, as well as discussing the major challenges. Assisted by leading experts and early career scholars in Europe and the US, the course also offers strategies for building bridges between the communities.

Religion is...
3 February – 12 April 2020
This course will help participants understand the process by which religion has changed, through time and locations, and also how it contributes to, and is influenced by, society in the 21st century.

Jews, Christians and Muslims in Europe: Modern Challenges
7 September – 20 December 2020
This course focuses on the relationships between Jews, Christians and Muslims in modern Europe and in European history. It consists of three modules, each lasting for four weeks.

Representations of Jewish-Christian Relations in Literature
Dates TBC
This course will provide participants with the opportunity to engage with various texts from English Literature through the lens of interfaith studies, to understand the narrative of deep-seated prejudices and to recognise the value of dialogue to dispel these views.

Online Course Bursaries

Online Course Bursaries support a broad range of participants whose financial circumstances prove a barrier to study. A range of partial or full-cost bursaries are available. The bursaries reflect the Institute’s long-standing commitment to provide individuals - of all faiths and none, from different backgrounds, from all over the world and from all walks of life - the opportunity to gain understanding and knowledge in interfaith relations and to be inspired, and contribute to dialogue within their wider community and workplace.

www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/fundraising/support-students
Outreach

Because our mission is to create a more tolerant society, we invest great effort and resources into public education and outreach. Our research projects are conducted with outreach in mind, which means our researchers are also working with local communities, schools and organisations to disseminate their research findings.

Our outreach programming is unique, as it packages and disseminates our academic research for a general audience. This means that the material we are using to engage with students and the wider public is based on cutting edge research in interfaith relations. Our outreach creates fascinating and engaging workshops that are well received by students in schools.

If you are interested in inviting the Woolf Institute to your school for an interactive workshop or interfaith programme, contact eth22@cam.ac.uk

Further information www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/training/education

Living in Harmony

Research from our Living in Harmony project, which explores the cultural and social implications of musical encounters between Muslim, Jewish, and Christian neighbours in historical Iraq and Syria, is now being used to engage students in Jewish and Muslim schools around London. We are giving students a fresh perspective on interfaith relations in the Middle East through sound and music.

Dunya Habash recently delivered a workshop with year 7 students at the Jewish Community Secondary School in North London. She comments ‘I was pleased to see the kids excited by this history especially since many of them were unaware of the historic multiculturalism in the Middle East, let alone the history of Jewish communities in places like Aleppo in Syria and Baghdad in Iraq. Sharing this knowledge with them, and the wider public, is key, I believe, to creating more tolerant societies’.
Summer School
22 June-5 July 2020: Religion and Society from the Medieval to the Modern
Led by Dr Esther-Miriam Wagner, Executive Director of the Woolf Institute, Religion and Society from the Medieval to the Modern examines the interactions between religion and society and between the different religious communities in Europe and the Middle East from the Medieval era to modern times. This module introduces students to the study of religion in society and to different aspects of the history of interfaith relations in Europe and in the Middle East. It aims to equip them with the required analytical tools, bibliographical background and the necessary objectivity for the study of interfaith relations.

The Woolf Institute Summer School aims to offer programmes of study to students that draw on the research and teaching expertise of academics and doctoral scholars at the Woolf Institute and 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 accredited by Anglia Ruskin University. A Woolf Institute Certificate of Completion is awarded at the end of the Summer School, or it can be counted as an accredited MA module in some cases.

For more information and how to apply
www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/study/summer-schools

Diversity in End of Life Care Handbook
In recent years, the Diversity in End of Life Care training programme has trained hundreds of healthcare professionals and volunteers working in hospice and hospital contexts. With the support of the D’Oyly Carte Charitable Trust and Rank Foundation, the Woolf Institute has now produced the Diversity in End of Life Care Handbook, which complements current face-to-face training. It will serve as an active resource with which delegates can encourage colleagues when caring for patients and their families to consider religious and/or cultural sensitivities. The handbook includes a series of case studies detailing scenarios which staff may face in their everyday work.

Completed by a team of contributors, including medical practitioners, religious figures and carers, this handbook is available online and in printed format.

www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/training/healthcare
In the Media

Podcasts & Radio

In 2018-19, the Woolf Institute expanded its range of podcasts. These include: Living in Harmony, with Dunya Habash, discussing music, memory and encounter between Jewish, Muslim and Christian neighbours and Inside Fundamentalism a spin-off from BBC R4 documentary, We Do Do God. Both the latter are presented by Dr Ed Kessler and examine aspects of strictly observed religion.

This year, the Woolf Institute is working with the popular science podcast Naked Scientist and Ed is presenting a weekly podcast Naked Reflection, consisting of a weekly panel discussion with prominent voices from academia, journalism and politics, as well as latest research. We are also working with The Conversation and Dr Julian Hargreaves is presenting Generation M, exploring the interests of a younger generation of British Muslims. Finally, following the successful A-Z of Religion and Belief published by The Independent in 2018, Ed is presenting a new A-Z, this time a 26-part series The Holy Land: from Arab to Zion.

Articles & Blogs

The Observer interviewed Lord Blair in late 2018; in January 2019, the BBC History Magazine covered Dr Esther-Miriam Wagner’s work on the Prize Papers; and later in 2019, the BBC News website interviewed Dr Julian Hargreaves about his work with the Commission for Countering Extremism for a feature which led to an approach from one of the UK’s highest ranking counter-terrorism police officers.

Dr Emma Harris continues to edit the excellent fortnightly blog, published on our website: www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/blog

Television

Dr John Mueller and his work were part of a highly-rated documentary, broadcast by the German public broadcaster. The feature-length film highlighted his work on the spectacular rise of Jewish entrepreneurs in Germany during the 19th century, their rapid decline in the 1920s and their expulsion or murder a decade later.

Keep an eye on the Woolf Institute YouTube Channel www.youtube.com/WoolfInstitute
Get Involved

Lady Khadija Visiting Fellowship in Shi`i Studies

The establishment of a new Lady Khadija Visiting Fellowship in Shi`i Studies is a notable development in contemporary Islamic Studies towards a more reflective, decolonised and engaged approach to scholarship. The Hikma Foundation, whose vision is the promotion of Shi`i Studies in academia through the establishment of posts in the names of the Ahlulbayt, has generously funded the visiting post at the Woolf Institute for one term per annum, for three years.

Thank you to all our Supporters

We are most grateful for every donation we receive towards our work. We have highlighted some of our generous supporters in this Calendar together with the amazing projects they are helping us fund.
Our Finances
Amy Rhys-Davies
Company Secretary, Director of Services & Administration

2018/19 was the first full financial year in our new building. This big capital project has been the main focus of our fundraising for the past few years and has proven a game-changer. It has increased our visibility, our research and our educational activities. Some of its running costs are off-set by the bedrooms being rented out and conference facilities being let to academic and commercial clients as part of Westminster College’s events packages.

Our projected operating expenses for 2019/20 are approximately £1.3 million, the majority of which is the cost of salaries, for our researchers, outreach officers and support staff. On the income side we are largely dependent on research grants and gifts for particular projects (66%) and other donations (21%): philanthropic giving in the broadest sense. Approximately 13% of our income is generated by non-fundraising activities, as outlined above.

It is essential that, in order to make the most of the opportunities arising from having a permanent home and to achieve the Woolf Institute’s vision, we build up both its research and educational/outreach project grant income and its endowment. Building the endowment will provide an additional annual income stream and further financial security against which to plan the Institute’s activities in the medium and longer-term, in addition to the more immediate future.

As we look to the future and the work that remains, we need 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. To do this, we aim to raise £35 million in revenue and endowment funding by the time of our 35th anniversary in 2033 – ‘35 by 35’.

Projected Income

Projected Expenditure
Your Impact
Make a contribution to our work

If you wish to support a particular aspect of Woolf Institute’s work, please tell us by email or letter. Unrestricted donations are most helpful, as they allow us to use your gift where it is most needed. You may wish to support a specific project, such as: public education; teaching; student bursaries and scholarships; research; library and facilities. Please use a reference including your name when arranging transfers.

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Please contact us for donations from outside the UK as it may be possible to do these tax-efficiently.

You can set up a Standing Order using your online banking and the details above.

Cheques or Charity Vouchers should be made payable to ‘Woolf Institute’ and posted to Woolf Institute, Madingley Road, Cambridge CB3 0UB

You can donate online by visiting https://woolf.charitycheckout.co.uk/donate

To make a gift with Gift Aid, please include your home address and name with your gift, or email the Development Office, and state that you are making the gift under the Gift Aid scheme. This increases the value of your donation to the Woolf Institute by 25% at no cost to you. Your home address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer. If you prefer, we can send you a paper or electronic copy of a Gift Aid form to complete and return.

If you are interested in a tailored package of support contact Director of Development Helen Cornish on development@woolf.cam.ac.uk or 01223 761972

Thank you for your support.
Your Benefits
Making your donation work for you too

Tax-efficient giving is possible in the UK via the Gift Aid scheme. You must be a UK taxpayer and understand that if you pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all your donations in any given tax year, it is your responsibility to pay any difference. If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return, or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

Tax-efficient giving is possible in the US via CAF America, CAF Canada and in many European countries via TransNational Giving Europe. Please contact Helen Cornish or Dr John Mueller on development@woolf.cam.ac.uk for more information.

Making a donation by giving shares is one of the most tax-efficient ways that you can give. In the UK you can claim Income Tax relief on the current value of the shares and an exemption from Capital Gains Tax on those shares. Please contact development@woolf.cam.ac.uk or your accountant for further information.
Leaving a Gift in your Will
A simple way to create a lasting legacy

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 you with much satisfaction and peace of mind. After you have provided for family and friends, please consider leaving a legacy to the Woolf Institute. A donation to the Woolf Institute in your Will allows us to flourish far into the future by enabling us to promote scholarship and research, to support students and to help people develop the conditions for a more tolerant society.

Our work to promote better relations between religions can be your legacy.

A gift, however large or small, can be directed towards any area of our work. The most useful contributions are those for general purposes, as it allows us to respond to changing need in years to come.

Advantages to you

By writing a Will, which can be a simple process, you make things easier for your family on your death. Even if you do not have a huge estate, it ensures that your property is left to those whom you wish to benefit.

Making a gift in your Will is an opportunity to make a real difference to our work, even for those with current financial commitments. The Woolf Institute relies upon donations to invest in future generations of researchers and students, who will go on to make a lasting impact on the world.

All gifts left to registered charities in a Will are exempt from inheritance tax in the UK and could reduce the inheritance tax due on your estate. In several other countries, a gift in your Will can have tax benefits. Ask your solicitor or accountant, or contact us at development@woolf.cam.ac.uk

Thank you for considering including the Woolf Institute in your Will.
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The Woolf Institute’s vision is one in which discussion and engagement overcome prejudice and intolerance. It combines teaching, research and outreach, focusing on Jews, Christians and Muslims, to foster understanding between people of different beliefs and improve the way that people live together in society.