Dear Woolf Friends,

As an academic, I always feel incredibly elated when a student tells me my teaching has changed the way they think about a problem or the profound effect our discussions have had on their lives. We always like to think the Woolf Institute changes lives for the better.

Recently, however, this feeling of delight reached new heights when two of our PhD scholars, Dunya Habash and Mohammed Ibraheem Ahmed, who first met here, decided to get married. To help them celebrate their union, we provided our beloved building space for their post-nuptial reception, and the Woolf Institute became the venue of a radiant Pakistani-Syrian wedding party. Transformed by a décor of flowers, a set of marquees and a table set up to host a large group of dinner guests, our otherwise austere conference room was filled with immaculately dressed men and women in colourful gowns and sharp suits.

Dunya Habash and Mohammed Ibraheem Ahmed will be known to many of you as both are not only scholars at the Institute, but they also have been an integral part of many of our projects. Be it the Living in Harmony school outreach project or The Written Word: Timeless Arabic and Hebrew calligraphy exhibition, they have contributed substantially to the work of the Institute over the last few years. To join them at their joyful wedding was very special for all staff members and students, and we wish them all the best for their new life together.

Best wishes,
The Woolf Institute together with the Society for the Medieval Mediterranean invite you to their webinar series. This session offers a parallel analysis on the processes of community-building, social advancement and agency in the late medieval Mediterranean. It focuses on three cities that will take us from one shore of the Mediterranean to the other. The urban contexts of Barcelona, Venice and Constantinople allow us to delve into the different ways that individuals and groups strove to improve their position within the fabric of
the late medieval city. Consequently, the papers in this session will consider issues such as the importance of sociability in the creation of belonging, the role of profession in the establishment of urban hierarchies and the agency of foreign communities in the shaping of urban life.

Speakers: Lisa Dallavalle, Özden Mercan, Carolina Obradors-Suazo

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

BOOK LAUNCH 19 OCTOBER @17:00

THE ISLAMIC MOVEMENT IN ISRAEL

TILDE ROSMER

The Woolf Institute invites you to a talk on the occasion of the launch of The Islamic Movement in Israel by Tilde Rosmer.

Tilde Rosmer’s research on collective identity formation and religious-political movements with a particular focus on Israel-Palestine is published in peer-reviewed journals such as the British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies; Journal of Palestine Studies; Die Welt des Islams; Journal of Islamic Studies and Cultural Dynamics. Rosmer’s book on The Islamic Movement in Israel was published in March 2022 by University of Texas Press. Currently her research in the emerging field of Environmental Humanities focuses on awareness and knowledge of sustainability among Emirati youth.

This event will be chaired by Dr Julian Hargreaves.

CLICK HERE IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND IN PERSON

CLICK HERE IF YOU WANT TO JOIN VIA ZOOM

LIVING IN HARMONY TEACHERS’ SEMINAR

17 NOVEMBER 2022
The Living in Harmony team has created a dynamic outreach programme based on research from the project to teach students across England about faith communities and coexistence through music. Currently, we offer fun and engaging workshops that provide students with a unique experience of Middle Eastern music, religion and history. We are now also providing training for teachers who are interested in expanding their knowledge of interfaith relations and acquiring new tools and lesson plans for the classroom.

CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

QUR'AN AND BIBLE READING GROUP

11 OCTOBER @18:00

This reading group, convened by Rick Sopher and chaired by Dr Esther-Miriam Wagner, is anchored in a project which compares Torah portions of the week to the relevant Qur'anic passages. Matters discussed will include similarities and differences in biblical and Qur'anic narratives, infallibility of prophets, scriptural hostility, the availability of Jewish sources in Arabia in the 7th century and the benefits of studying one another's scriptures.

“Faith and Family in the Qur'an: The Cases of Noah, Abraham, and Moses”

In this session we will be joined by Professor Gabriel Reynolds.

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

Yom Kippur

יום עזר ו赎罪日

יום ח السورية

Yom Kippur
For those celebrating Yom Kippur, the Jewish day of atonement, the Woolf Institute wishes everyone a meaningful day and an easy fast. May you be inscribed and sealed in the Book of Life for a good year.

It would be an exaggeration to say that there are as many beliefs about what and how we should eat as there are beliefs about religion but sometimes it feels that way. And like religious adherents, advocates of different dietary regimes often tussle to claim the moral high ground. David Clough and Lutfi Radwan consider the issues...