



Dear Woolf Friends,

We are in the swing of Easter term in Cambridge, which runs from the second half of April to the middle of June. The term is always strangely dual in nature. On the one hand, it is the period of exams, with anxiety palpable in the air as the students – or most of them – engage in intense preparations and revisions. On the other hand, it is also the time when Cambridge is the most beautiful with regular sunshine and trees in bloom, and the luscious green of the parks entices students and Cambridge residents alike to gather. It is also the time of garden parties, the ‘bumps’ on the river, May balls, and a staggering number of seminars and other events, which are often pushed to the end of academic year to make up for earlier cancellations or miscalculated planning.

This year, after two Easter terms of working from home and lack of in-person engagement, there seems to be even more of an explosion of social life. And we at the Woolf Institute duly join the fray. In addition to the regularly running webinars, we have already had a successful book launch, in which Lord Sumption was the senior member of a distinguished panel of discussants, and we have hosted a Research Evening in the House of Lords. Very soon, we will go on our Patrons’ Tour to Istanbul, where we explore the multi-religious landscape of one of the greatest cities in the world. And on 7th June we will host a Jubilee Garden party, to which Friends of the Woolf are cordially invited. On a personal note, I would like to thank all the people – staff, students, benefactors, trustees and academic colleagues – who have contributed in so many ways to making my first year at the helm of the Institute so exciting.

With your support and encouragement, we will make 2023, our 25th anniversary, a year of celebration, community and ground-breaking research and we very much hope you will join us as we look ahead to the next 25 years.

Best wishes,

Dr Esther-Miriam Wagner
Executive Director, Woolf Institute

Upcoming Events

16 May @17:00

Misguided
Optimism: Germany
in 1930, Today's EU,
and Transnational
Redress



17 May @17:00

Bees in the Medieval
Mediterranean



23 May @17:00

Invitation and
Belonging in a
Christian Ashram



1 – 5 June

Patrons' Tour -
Istanbul
(By invitation only)



7 June @14:00

Jubilee Garden
Party
(By invitation only)



7 June @17:00

Archives and
record-keeping in
medieval Eastern
Mediterranean



12 June @14:00

The Written Word:
Timeless Arabic &
Hebrew Calligraphy



WEBINAR 16 MAY @17:00

MISGUIDED OPTIMISM: GERMANY IN 1930,
TODAY'S EU, AND TRANSNATIONAL REDRESS

DR R. AMY ELMAN

ISGAP / THE INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF
GLOBAL ANTISEMITISM & POLICY

WOOLF
INSTITUTE



ISGAP-WOOLF WEBINAR SERIES

MONDAY 16 MAY @17:00

The Institute for the Study of Global Antisemitism and Policy (ISGAP) is delighted to inform you of its seminar series as part of the landmark fellowship training programme on critical antisemitism studies, discrimination and human rights in partnership with the Woolf Institute.

The next lecture will be given by Dr. R. Amy Elman, Weber Professor in Social Science, Kalamazoo College, Kalamazoo, US

Misguided Optimism: Germany in 1930, Today's EU, and Transnational Redress

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

WEBINAR 17 MAY @17:00

Woolf Institute and the Society for the Medieval Mediterranean present:

Bees in the Medieval Mediterranean



BEES IN THE MEDIEVAL MEDITERRANEAN: ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL PERSPECTIVES

TUESDAY 17 MAY @17:00

Bees and bee products were of tremendous cultural significance in the later Middle Ages. Wax was necessary for many aspects of Christian religious devotion, while honey held a particular importance in medieval Islam. In this session we will examine how these cultural preferences drove a lucrative and far-reaching trade in beeswax, combining the products of domestic apiculture and large-scale imports to support increasingly costly and spectacular forms of Christian devotion, demonstrating interconnections of economy, environment and culture in the pre-modern world.

The speakers are: Dr Alexandra Sapoznik (King's College London) and Lluís Sales Fava (Bee Project) (IEM-Universidade Nova de Lisboa).

The session will be chaired by Dr Roser Salicrú.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

BOOK LAUNCH 23 MAY @17:00

**INVITATION AND BELONGING IN A CHRISTIAN
ASHRAM - BUILDING INTERRELIGIOUS
COMMUNITY IN NORTHERN INDIA**

DR NADYA POHRAN



**BOOK LAUNCH: INVITATION AND BELONGING IN A CHRISTIAN ASHRAM
- BUILDING INTERRELIGIOUS COMMUNITY IN NORTHERN INDIA**

MONDAY 23 MAY @17:00

We are delighted to host a book launch for one of our postdoctoral visiting research fellows of the Woolf Institute, Nadya Pohran.

How do we build, experience, and nurture a sense of mutual respect, trust, friendship, and even deep belonging when we hold onto different beliefs and worldviews than others in our midst? What are the challenges, and benefits, of striving to form a community in such an environment? Spurred on by these questions, Nadya Pohran pursued ethnographic fieldwork at Sat Tal Christian Ashram (STA), an ashram established in 1930 with the aim to build interreligious community with its Hindu and Muslim neighbours, and which has experienced several challenges in creating and maintaining a sense of welcome for all.

Nadya will provide a summary of the book's contents and situate it within the field of Hindu-Christian studies more broadly. She will then discuss some of her findings related to the negotiations and tensions of belonging through presenting a case study of World Amrita and Sat Tal Christian ashram. There will be time for Q&A as well as guided group discussion.

The event is scheduled to take place in-person. The event will not be recorded but there will be an option to attend virtually.

PLEASE CONTACT FLORA MOFFIE IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND IN-PERSON

CLICK HERE IF YOU WANT TO JOIN VIA ZOOM

EXHIBITION OPENING 12 JUNE @14:00

The Written Word: Timeless Arabic & Hebrew Calligraphy



JOUMANA
MEDLEJ



MICHEL
D'ANASTASIO



MAAIDA
NOOR



THE WRITTEN WORD: TIMELESS ARABIC & HEBREW CALLIGRAPHY

SUNDAY 12 JUNE @14:00

Three award-winning calligraphy artists come together to showcase the beauty of the written word. Featuring Arabic and Hebrew text in a range of styles, these original masterpieces present modern works inspired by the classical calligraphic tradition. As an institute dedicated to educating the public about the heritage of the Abrahamic faiths, this exhibition offers an exciting event that explores some of the creative, artistic productions developed across various Abrahamic communities over time.

Featuring works by Joumana Medlej, Michel D'Anastasio, and Maaida Noor, all of whom will join us on the opening day to share their insights working as calligraphy artists over the years. See back page for artist biographies.

Please join us in the Shasha Suite for a reception at the Woolf Institute on Sunday 12 June 2022 from 14:00 - 17:00 to meet the artists and browse the collection of the original works. There will be an opportunity for attendees to purchase these originals. The artwork will be reproduced and featured in the building in an exhibition until the end of the year.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

The Woolf:

Within Living Memory

CALLING ALL ALUMNI OF THE WOOLF INSTITUTE

Were you a student at the Woolf? What was it like? Did it change your life? We are collecting memories from our alumni about their experiences of studying in Cambridge at the Woolf Institute, particularly those who studied here in the early days of the Institute. Please tell us where you came from, what you

studied, what your first impressions of Cambridge were and how your research at the Woolf affected you and the decisions you took afterwards. What are you doing now? Have you kept in touch with people you met back then? Do you come back to Cambridge?

We would love to hear from you. If you would like to contribute a short piece of around 300 words, please send it to Liz Winter at ejw39@cam.ac.uk, together with any relevant photos you have.

We look forward to hearing from you.

[CLICK HERE TO SEND IN YOUR MEMORIES](#)

COMING SOON

Naked Reflections Podcast x The Woolf Institute

THE F WORD: FORGIVENESS

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

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for as little as £10 a month

[Click here to donate](#)



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