



Dear Woolf Friends,

A few years ago, the Woolf Institute conducted a research project on trust between religious communities. Through our work, we recognised that building trust between people requires positive, but also meaningful, encounters. According to research, daily interactions by themselves are not enough to create faith in one another. It is crucial that such interactions create positive feelings for both sides. Through this, both parties develop a sense of commonality.

Anecdotal examples for this abound in my personal experience. A colleague at the University told me how regularly engaging in team sports with Muslim students had shifted their perceptions about British Muslims. At a wedding I attended, someone had met a Jewish couple in person for the first time and danced with them through the night. They recounted how this had changed what they thought about Jewish people in general.

Creating opportunities for people of different faiths to encounter one another in a setting of learning, where people productively create knowledge together, is thus a very important part of our work at the Woolf Institute. Whether it is gathering people in classrooms to study a particular subject, in panels to discuss various faith perspectives, or in an encounter event where people work together on a project, the Institute brings together members of the different religious communities to meet and get to know one another.

We have heard many times how transformational these opportunities are for those studying with us. One of our Muslim students from Morocco named his baby boy Abraham (not Ibrahim) to honour the Jewish students with whom he had been in class. Attendees at other classes told me how their ideas about minority faiths in Britain, in particular about Muslims, had been very positively and inclusively altered. Muslim and Jewish student recounted how through the interactions with Christian students talking about their faith they grew a deeper understanding of Christian values and ethics, taking away fears they had long harboured.

The Woolf Institute encounter programmes will continue to increase faith literacy, to dispel false narratives and to break down barriers between communities. As our Founder President Dr Ed Kessler often says: Only when we know the Other, we will truly understand ourselves.

Best wishes,

Dr Esther-Miriam Wagner

This Week At Woolf

## ENCOUNTERS



WATCH: CONTINUITY, CHANGE, ENCOUNTER

READ: INTERFAITH AS PERSONAL ENCOUNTER - AN OPPORTUNITY FOR GROWTH

LISTEN: HOW TO DISAGREE AMICABLY?

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ISGAP Dave Rich, Antisemitism and the Gaza Conflict in May 2021: What Was New ... Watch later Share

ANTISEMITISM AND THE  
GAZA CONFLICT  
IN MAY 2021:  
WHAT WAS NEW  
AND WHAT WAS OLD?  
DAVE RICH

Watch on YouTube

ISGAP / WOOLF INSTITUTE

### REWATCH: ISGAP SEMINAR SERIES

**Antisemitism and the Gaza Conflict in May 2021: What Was New and What Was Old?**

By Dave Rich - Director of Policy, Community Security Trust (CST)

CLICK HERE TO WATCH

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THURSDAY 10 MARCH @18:00

## ENCOUNTER EVENT



### ENCOUNTER EVENT 10 MARCH @18:00

This Encounter event will bring together faith practitioners from different communities to discuss outcomes of the Woolf Institute Qur'an and Bible Reading group, which met during the academic year 2020-21.

Although the relationship of the Torah and the Qur'an is deep and nuanced, members of the group generally agreed on several statements.

Several of these conclusions, which were based on the texts, call for further study concerning the historical development of the interpretation of the texts. They also lend themselves to discussion between faith leaders and practitioners of interfaith dialogue, and it is hoped that this Encounter event will be the first of many to explore these academic findings.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

WEBINAR 15 MARCH @17:30

Woolf Institute and the Society for the Medieval  
Mediterranean present:

## SLAVERY AND INVISIBILITY IN THE MEDIEVAL MEDITERRANEAN



### WEBINAR: SLAVERY AND INVISIBILITY IN THE MEDIEVAL MEDITERRANEAN

15 MARCH @17:30

The sixth webinar of the series, organised jointly by Woolf Institute and the Society for the Medieval Mediterranean, will take place on 15 March 2022 at 17:30. The webinar will focus on 'Slavery in the Medieval Mediterranean'.

The speakers are Dr Hannah Barker, Dr Cristina de la Puente and Dr Craig Perry.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

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## MUSICAL NETWORKS

*Naked Reflections Podcast x The Woolf Institute*

WHAT'S THE LINK BETWEEN C20TH MUSLIM  
POP MUSIC AND VICTORIAN SYNAGOGUE  
MUSIC?



### PODCAST: MUSICAL NETWORKS

What's the link between C20th Muslim pop music and Victorian synagogue music?

It's a long way from Victorian synagogues to Twentieth Century recording studios but both provided a catalyst for musical sharing and cultural enrichment bringing, respectively, Jewish and Muslim music into the mainstream. Danielle Padley and Jonas Otterbeck survey the scene...

[CLICK HERE TO LISTEN TO THE PODCAST](#)

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## COMING SOON

*Naked Reflections Podcast x The Woolf Institute*

CLIMATE AND CHANGING HUMAN  
BEHAVIOUR

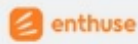
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for as little as £10 a month



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