



Dear Woolf Friends,

As I write this the night sky is blazing with fireworks from the May Ball at a neighbouring college. Cambridge celebrates the end of the academic year in great style. At the Woolf we too have been celebrating, not with fireworks, but with a garden party, a gala dinner, talks and a festschrift to mark our 25th anniversary. At this half way point in our anniversary year, it seems to me a good thing to pause and look back at all that's been happening.

The best thing about celebrating this milestone anniversary is that we have reconnected with so many people and each event has been an extraordinary experience shared. Our London Patrons' tour, for example, gave those who attended the opportunity for personal conversation with the Chief Rabbi and the Archbishop of Canterbury. Few will forget the frank intimate discussions we were privileged to have with our faith leaders. Later in the year we enjoyed a lecture by the inimitable Shalom Auslander, who won the Institute's Peter Gilbert Prize. Then we went on our Patrons' tour to UAE and Saudi Arabia and this altered our perceptions of the countries visited and created unforgettable memories. The Kessler Fest, a day marking our Founder Director's 60th birthday, featured many fascinating talks, was attended by a host of alumni and friends and included an illuminating panel on female authority in faith leaders. Our 25th Anniversary dinner at St James's Palace, hosted by HRH The Princess Royal, was a highlight enjoyed by supporters, staff and students. And our annual Garden party gathered Trustees, Cambridge colleagues, and Friends of the Woolf. We watched from the garden as a new neon sculpture was switched on in



Upcoming Events

4 July

25 years on:
Reflections on peace
in Northern Ireland
and beyond



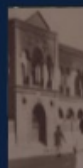
10 - 21 July

Woolf Institute
Summer School



28 August

Concert, Aden
Conference



11 October

Leicester Patrons'
Tour



8 November

Ibn Arabi Lecture



an upstairs window, an abstract construction deploying three elements: a green oblong tube representing the Islamic Ka'ba; a yellow circle inside representing Christianity, and in the centre a blue octagon echoing the foundation structure of the Dome of the Rock, originally built on the site of Solomon's Temple and the Second Jewish Temple and here representing Judaism. It was a memorable moment and somehow seemed to pull together the traditions of our religious past and the pulsating drive of the present into the future in one beautiful neon symbol.

This has also been an academic year full of great research, under the supervision of our Director of Research Dr Julian Hargreaves, of new Public Engagement initiatives, led by Dr Elizabeth Phillips, and we have just welcomed our new company secretary Dr Emma Harris. We celebrated the successes of our fantastic researchers and students, and created meaningful encounters between members of the three Abrahamic faiths.

The warmth shown by our alumni, supporters and friends throughout the year has made these six months exceptionally moving and affirming. We thank you all for coming to events, writing in with your memories and demonstrating once again how much the Woolf means to you, and the difference it has made to your lives. This weekly newsletter will now go into its summer break, and I hope you all have a wonderful time over the course of the next two months. When we return in September, we'll share with you our programme for the autumn and winter and I hope we'll see many of you at the events planned for the remainder of the year.

All good wishes,

Dr Esther-Miriam Wagner
Executive Director, Woolf Institute







25 years on from the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement – what lessons can we learn?

Tuesday 4 July 2023 @17:30



On 4th July, the Woolf Institute is privileged to be hosting a lecture by Professor, the Lord Alderdice, entitled *25 years on from the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement – what lessons can we learn?*

Twenty-five years ago, on 10th April 1998, the Good Friday Agreement was signed. The process that led to this historic document ended, for the most part, the decades of brutal, ethno-nationalist conflict, known as 'The Troubles'. By a remarkable coincidence in that same year, the Woolf Institute was founded.

Lord Alderdice, former leader of the Alliance Party, recently appeared in a Naked Reflections podcast, **Reflecting on the Good Friday agreement**, hosted by Dr Ed Kessler, our Founder Director. In this episode, he discussed with the historian Niamh Gallagher, what finally made the Agreement in Northern Ireland work and should we think of peace as a continuing process rather than a goal. You can listen to them reflecting on this complex situation [here](#).

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR THE LECTURE](#)

Join the celebration of social, cultural, and communal histories of the multicultural port

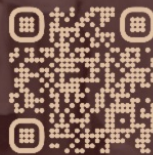
Aden

A three-day conference dedicated to the intersection of histories, cultures, and communal dynamics in Aden and its surroundings, particularly under British rule.

AUGUST 28-30, 2023

Opening Night | JW3, London

Conference | Woolf Institute, Cambridge



AdenConference.com



ASF
Institute of
Jewish Experience



E'eleh BeTamar

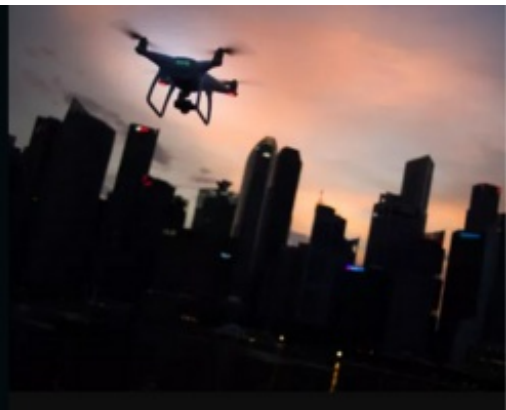
מרכז זלמן שזר
בית ארסטרופיה ירושלים



BLESSED ALGORITHMS

Naked Reflections Podcast x The Woolf Institute

IN MANY WAYS, A.I. HAS CREPT UP ON US WITHOUT US NOTICING. BETH SINGLER AND HOPE MCGOVERN ASSESS THE CURRENT STATE OF PLAY.



PODCAST: BLESSED ALGORITHMS

In many ways, A.I. has crept up on us without us noticing. Beth Singler and Hope McGovern assess the current state of play.

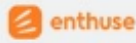
We have Alexa, we have drones in the sky, killer robots on the battlefield and creepy algorithms designed to anticipate our every need. But do we lose sight of the potential benefits of A.I.? Beth Singler and Hope McGovern throw some light on a much discussed subject

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