



Dear Woolf Friends,

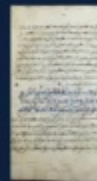
As the Forgiveness and Future-building project continues, one of the most fascinating and humbling outcomes has been engagement with people involved in or affected by conflict. As an academic, you feel safe in your ivory tower. There you sit and read about psychological theories of conflict and reconciliation, possibly try and critique a flawed meta-analysis or raise concerns about theoretical implications. There is no human face. There is no one looking you in the eye and telling you how their legs were blown off by an IRA bomb or how cold they were at Srebrenica while they lay with their massacred family.

Through the incredible networks that have developed over the course of the seven months of the project, the research team has been able to step outside the tower and engage with truly remarkable people. One relationship in particular that has allowed this kind of engagement is the Woolf Institute's partnership with the European Democratic Youth Network (EDYN). Based in Bratislava, they are an organisation that brings together young and emerging leaders in countries with a totalitarian heritage in Central and Eastern Europe. Many of these still bear the scars of a troubled past and their post-conflict stability is threatened at a time when democracy is in decline in the region and myriad hybrid threats are now a reality (ie, Bosnia, Serbia, Kosovo, Armenia and Azerbaijan). And many, as in the case of Ukraine, are currently ravaged by brutal conflict. In collaboration with EDYN, the Woolf Institute is planning a six day summer school that will bring 15 of their delegates first to Cambridge for

Upcoming Events

13 December

Historiography and
Politics in the Late
Medieval Islamic
Mediterranean



16 & 17 January

Perspectives on
Judaism and Islam



26 January

London Patrons'
Tour



31 January

Making martyrs in
medieval Iberia



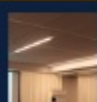
7 February

Reading Group:
Qur'an and Bible



8 February

London Research




three days and then for three days in Belfast, Northern Ireland. Over the six days, participants will have the opportunity to engage with academic, political and reconciliation experts in both locations. In Cambridge, the emphasis will be very much on engaging the cohort with the relevant research and critical thinking skills needed to design and implement fact-driven policies as well as understand the key moral and ethical value concepts that should inform pathways to reconciliation. The three days in Belfast will allow the cohort to meet people who were directly involved not only in the violence of the Troubles but also those who championed, brokered, and wrote peace. This initiative is, for me, the most important aspect of the project. We are well outside the ivory tower and directly engaging with the next generation of leaders in countries who are struggling with post-conflict stability. Through this unique engagement with academics, policy makers, diplomats, community leaders, ex-political prisoners and victims of conflict we hope to impart to the cohort the expertise necessary to apply innovative and sustainable methods to youth-driven efforts to counter threats to social stability in post-conflict societies. At an EDYN dinner in the spring, I sat opposite a young delegate from Ukraine. Someone gently approached the question of peace, and she replied *“achieving peace is only the start, the task of rebuilding my country is overwhelming”*. This summer school is a chance for us to give her and her contemporaries the knowledge and skills needed to do that.

Best wishes,

Dr Katherine O'Lone

Research Fellow, Woolf Institute

Day	
22 February	
Auslander Lecture Cambridge	
23 February	
Auslander Lecture London (by invitation only)	
30 March	
Iftar	
6 June	
Woolf Institute Garden Party	

WEBINAR 13 DECEMBER @17:00

Woolf Institute and the Society for the Medieval
Mediterranean present:

Historiography and Politics in the Late Medieval Islamic Mediterranean



WEBINAR: 13 DECEMBER @17:00

Historiography and Politics in the Late Medieval Islamic Mediterranean

The Woolf Institute together with the Society for the Medieval Mediterranean invite you to their webinar series.

While Ibn Khaldun remains the most famous historian from the late medieval Islamic world, this panel will highlight some of the lesser known riches of historical writing from the 14th and 15th centuries. The papers will present case studies of Baybars al-Mansuri (d. 1325) writing in Mamluk Egypt, Ibn al-Khatib (d. 1374) in Nasrid Granada, and Ibn al-Shamma' (d. after 1457) in Hafsid Tunisia. These historians produced works of universal, local, and dynastic history, all building on long and shared legacies of historical writing. The panel explores how common concerns of patronage, political power, legitimacy and memory informed their historical narratives.

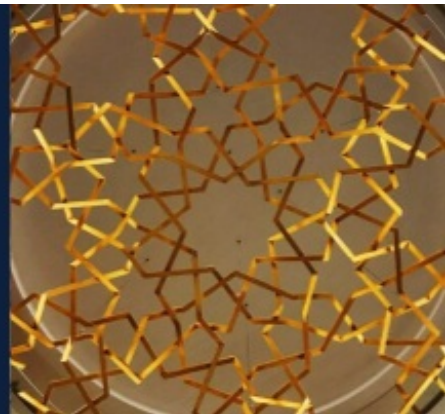
Speakers: Gowaart Van Den Bossche, Mohamad Ballan and Sébastien Garnier

Chair: Jo van Steenberg

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

Watch Again

Research Day



WATCH AGAIN: RESEARCH DAY

On 16 November the Woolf Institute hosted its annual research day. Staff and students showcased the breadth of their research, and were joined by many Woolf friends and peers.

Congratulations to the winner of the research day, Dr Katherine O'Lone who shared her work on the Forgiveness and Peace-Building project. Our runner up was first-time research day presenter, Seherish Abrar.

[CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE PRESENTATIONS](#)







REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

Naked Reflections Podcast x The Woolf Institute

THE UK ASYLUM SYSTEM IS BROKEN. THE WOOLF INSTITUTE COMMISSION ON THE INTEGRATION OF REFUGEES AIMS TO HELP FIX IT...



PODCAST: REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

The system for those seeking asylum in the UK is not working, with damaging effects across society and for refugees. That's why the Woolf Institute has just launched its Commission on the Integration of Refugees with an aim to improve the refugee and asylum system for everyone, especially refugees. Two of the Commissioners, Janice Lopatkin and Jehangir Malik share their thoughts.

[CLICK HERE TO LISTEN](#)

COMING SOON

Naked Reflections Podcast x The Woolf Institute

TIME TO TALK

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

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