



Dear Woolf Friends,

Too often interfaith dialogue focuses on our shared ground and skirts away from the contentious conversations about what divides us. Although recognising our common beliefs and shared standards is always a good thing, if we don't address the differences we end up achieving little.

On the recent London Patrons' Tour one of our guests confided that this had been his expectation. We would talk, he thought, to Muslim faith leaders in the East London Mosque, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Chief Rabbi and two Sephardi Rabbis about what our faiths have in common and dance away from those things that separate us.

He couldn't have been more wrong, as he confessed. The Woolf has always been eager to have difficult conversations about topics that are associated with tensions arising in multi-religious and multicultural societies and this Patrons' day was no exception. Without facing up to the issues that cause tension, we won't find ways to talk about them with honesty and respect, and if we don't talk about them together, we can't build the foundations for honest exchange and work towards solutions.

So that was what we did at each station of the Patrons' Tour. Anyone who isn't familiar with the Woolf Institute might have been astonished at how the dialogue went straight to the heart of the matter each time, how we went right into complex and sometimes painful issues, such as attitudes towards sexuality or the discussion of Israel-Palestine in Muslim and Jewish communities. And how open and



Upcoming Events

7 February

Reading Group:
Qur'an and Bible



7 February

The Final Stage of
Hatred is Denial:
Blaming Jews for
Antisemitism



8 February

London Research
Day



14 February

Antizionism as
Political Propaganda



22 February



honest the conversations were.

However, perhaps the most remarkable thing for all of us was to observe the friendship that clearly bonds the different faith leaders we met. This sense of friendship and respect was the fuel that drove all the conversations, no matter how difficult some of these were. It made the dialogue positive, constructive and collegial and our day not only very challenging and interesting but also extremely enjoyable. It was our first ever patrons' tour on British soil, but it yielded such rich fruits we are now planning similar tours to other cities, including Manchester, Cardiff and Edinburgh alongside our overseas trips. Watch this space.

Best wishes,

Dr Esther-Miriam Wagner
Executive Director, Woolf Institute

Auslander Lecture
Cambridge



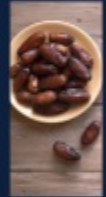
23 February

Auslander Lecture
London
(by invitation only)



30 March

Iftar



6 June

Woolf Institute
Garden Party



London Research Day

Bringing the best presentations from the Annual Research Day to the Metropolis.

8 February 2023

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS
WOOLF INSTITUTE

Contact Flora Moffie for more information

Wednesday 22 February 2023 @17:00

The day Kafka killed his iPhone

by Shalom Auslander

WOOLF INSTITUTE | KC SHASHA SUITE
MADINGLEY ROAD | CAMBRIDGE | CB3 0UB

Shalom is the first recipient of the Peter Gilbert Prize, an award jointly supported by the Woolf Institute and Jewish Renaissance.



Scan the QR code
to register



On Wednesday 22 February 2023, renowned US author Shalom Auslander will speak on 'The day Kafka killed his iPhone'. Shalom is the first recipient of the Peter Gilbert Prize, an award jointly supported by the Woolf Institute (Cambridge) and Jewish Renaissance.

This literary honour is given to the writer of the best article from Jewish Renaissance magazine, as judged by an expert panel. "This award should engage the contribution of the Jewish creative spirit to the intellectual and artistic life of the 20th century," said Adam Glinsman, who established the

prize, which is named for his much-loved uncle. Shalom won the award for his imaginative, humorous and perceptive insight into Franz Kafka and the great writer's relationship with his home city, Prague.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

WEBINAR 7 FEBRUARY @ 15:00

ISGAP-Woolf Institute Lecture Series

The Final Stage of Hatred is Denial: Blaming Jews for Antisemitism



ISGAP

As part of ISGAP's landmark Fellowship Training Programme on Critical Antisemitism Studies, Discrimination and Human Rights at the Woolf Institute, ISGAP is pleased to announce the ISGAP-Woolf Institute Series titled "Creating a Conceptual Framework for the Critical Study of Contemporary Antisemitism."

The series will allow ISGAP Visiting Scholars to deliver their latest research to the broader Cambridge community. It will also bring ISGAP's network of scholars to the Woolf Institute, allowing for new ideas to be integrated into one of the most important academic institutions on issues of contemporary antisemitism. The seminar series will include presentations from top experts in the field of contemporary antisemitism.

The Final Stage of Hatred is Denial: Blaming Jews for Antisemitism

Dr Daniel Feldman, Lecturer, Department of English Literature and Linguistics, Bar-Ilan University, Ramat Gan, Israel

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

TIME TO STOP TALKING?

Naked Reflections Podcast x The Woolf Institute

IS IT SOMETIMES NECESSARY OR EVEN
PRODUCTIVE TO STOP NEGOTIATING?



PODCAST: TIME TO STOP TALKING?

Is it sometimes necessary or even productive to stop negotiating?

If you asked the Astronomer Royal, Martin Rees, to discuss cosmology with a "flat-Earther", he would probably politely decline. But when it comes to more nuanced matters than scientific truth, is there ever a case for calling a halt to dialogue? Alfred Moore and Chris Wadibia consider the question...

[CLICK HERE TO LISTEN](#)

COMING SOON

Naked Reflections Podcast x The Woolf Institute

GOOD LUCK

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Woolf Institute | Madingley Road, Cambridge, CB30UB United Kingdom

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