

Dear Woolf Friends,

On April 11 this year, US President Joe Biden travelled to Belfast, Northern Ireland to mark the 1998 signing of the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement. It was a momentous landmark in the history of that conflict-ridden country. Anyone who watched the final episode of *Derry Girls* will have the poignancy of the choices people had to make forever etched on their heart.

It was because of this landmark agreement that our Woolf trip to New York at the end of April centred around a talk given by Dr Katherine O'Lone entitled 'Belfast; Have the Ghosts Left?' Research Fellow Kitty spoke movingly about the legacy of the Agreement and the moral and psychological landscape present today as Northern Ireland continues to find a way through the challenges that remain.

By drawing on the findings from her research project which used artificial intelligence to analyse millions of articles and media posts, she argued that we can better understand peace by exploring the patterns of how people think about reconciliation, forgiveness, and justice in the aftermath of violent conflict. The questions at the end of her talk revealed the longheld concerns of the Irish diaspora of New York as well as comments about other countries with conflicts. The discussion went on until dinner. Kitty is hoping to repeat the talk in Boston in the autumn so look out for details of that.



Upcoming Events

5 June Reading Group: Qur'an and Bible



6 June Woolf Institute Garden Party



10 - 21 July Woolf Institute Summer School



Of course, we were celebrating not only the anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement but 25 years of the Woolf Institute too. That quarter century has

seen so much conflict and division, yet as we look back to where we were in 1998, we must also see the progress made, progress in which the Woolf Institute has played a significant part. Our conversations in New York ranged widely and we found there was great interest in the research projects and commissions undertaken by the Institute. It was an opportunity to spread the word and build connections with an American audience.

During our two days in New York we met a number of interesting people from different faiths and backgrounds, talked about the research in which our academics are engaged and set the stage for further visits. It was a brief but full foray into the hectic, pulsating milieu that is New York, energising and stimulating as it always is. Thank you to all at Cambridge in America who hosted us and helped so much with the arrangements. With best wishes,

Liz Winter Development Consultant, Woolf Institute





YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND OUR

GARDEN PARTY

AT

the Woolf Institute

JUNE

TUESDAY

6

14:30 - 16:30

2023

Celebrate with champagne, cake and strawberries & cream on the lawn

WOOLF INSTITUTE MADINGLEY ROAD CAMBRIDGE CB3 0UB

RSVP BY 22 MAY 2023 DEVELOPMENT@WOOLF.CAM.AC.UK

PLEASE CONTACT FLORA MOFFIE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND

TURNING THE OTHER CHEEK

Naked Reflections Podcast x The Woolf Institute

TELL THE UKRAINIANS TO TURN THE OTHER CHEEK AND YOU'D PROBABLY GET SHORT SHRIFT. SO WHAT DOES THIS ADVICE REALLY MEAN?



PODCAST: TURNING THE OTHER CHEEK

In the blue corner: National Anthems and military marches; in the red corner: protest songs. Politics and music often coincide.

How practical is Jesus's advice to turn the other cheek? Some see it as an example of the excessive passivity of Christianity. Others think it's the only way to get out of an endless spiral of violence. Meryem Kalayci and Tim Stevens discuss the matter without coming to blows.

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COMING SOON

Naked Reflections Podcast x The Woolf Institute

LOVE THE OTHER

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