



Dear Woolf Friends,

Few men have the privilege and good fortune to see their life's vision take shape in front of them. Ed Kessler, whose 60th birthday we were celebrating this week, is that rare man.

But fortune played only a small part. Ed himself would tell you that people make their own luck. With calm determination, optimism and a great deal of courage, he founded the Institute which became the Woolf in Cambridge, a city deeply soaked in history and an ancient University entrenched in tradition.

With extraordinary vision and prescience, Ed founded an institute which focused on a broad spectrum of interfaith relations in the middle of secular Britain in the 1990s. Back then, religion was almost a no-go area of discussion but Ed knew this had to change. He pulled it off the side-lines and dragged it onto centre stage. He was proven right in the most horrifying way by the events of September 11th which reshaped the world and its attitude towards religion, and towards minority faiths, such as Islam and Judaism in particular.

Along the way, he even convinced us that we needed a dedicated building of our own when we thought we could manage by renting space in other people's buildings. Against all odds, he managed to fundraise for our beautiful home, anticipating as no one else did that this would transform us as an Institute and as a community of researchers and teachers.

Within this building, as before in our other homes,



Upcoming Events

9 May

14th Century Authors
as Readers north and
south of the
Mediterranean



5 June

Reading Group:
Qur'an and Bible



6 June

Woolf Institute
Garden Party



10 - 21 July

Woolf Institute
Summer School



we have nourished talent, taught and fostered dialogue and over the years and now, decades, we have seen scholars, educators, activists and thinkers emerge and develop into leaders, teachers and thinkers. Thanks to Ed, difficult subjects are discussed in safe spaces, people of different faiths work together to find solutions to seemingly impossible situations. And as part of our training, we learnt a variety of skills, like how to speak in a podcast, and how to talk to royalty, senior faith leaders and top politicians. Ed has helped us become well-rounded, versatile ambassadors for change. We are so very grateful to be part of his vision, help shape the future of the Woolf and be part of its hope for a better world.

With best wishes,

Dr Esther-Miriam Wagner
Executive Director, Woolf Institute





CORONATION KING CHARLES III

The Woolf Institute sends warmest wishes on the occasion on the coronation of King Charles III. We note His Royal Highness's history of commitment to religious freedom and interfaith relations, and look forward to seeking connections between faith groups and wider society strengthening in the years of his reign.

The Woolf Institute wishes Lord Woolf

Happy Birthday



BIRTHDAY LORD WOOLF

We are sending our warmest wishes to Lord Woolf on his 90th birthday last week. The Institute is honoured to have him as our namesake. We thank Lord Woolf for his continued support and patronage.

WEBINAR 9 MAY@17:00

Woolf Institute and the Society for the Medieval
Mediterranean present:

**14th Century Authors as Readers
north and south of the
Mediterranean**



WEBINAR 9 MAY @17:00

This session focuses on evidences on late medieval authors' act of reading and studying. The two speakers analyze two cases dating back to the 14th century, relating to two different geographical and cultural contexts: the French monarchy and the Mamluk sultanate. Michèle Goyens examines the multiple

traces left by the translation work on the pseudo-Aristotelian text *Problemata*, carried out by Évrart de Conty, active at the court of Charles V of France. Élise Franssen deals with al-Şafadī's *Tadhkira*, reconstructing the author's reading and his library from his notes.

Speakers: Professor Michèle Goyens (KU Leuven) and Élise Franssen, Post-doctoral researcher, (Université de Liège).

Chair: Benoit Grevin

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

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.

[CLICK HERE TO LISTEN](#)

COMING SOON

Naked Reflections Podcast x The Woolf Institute

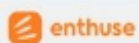
LOVE THE OTHER

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

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