

Dear Woolf Friends,

My experience as an Honorary PhD Scholar at the Woolf Institute was nothing short of fantastic. I started my PhD at SOAS, University of London, but transferred to the University of Cambridge after completing the first year of my doctoral programme.

When I entered Cambridge, I felt that in order to make the most of my PhD experience I needed not only to write an excellent doctoral thesis, but also to fill my CV with as many additional research activities as possible. Cambridge is a very competitive environment for postgraduate researchers and finding such activities can be difficult. This is where I first interfaced with the Woolf Institute. When I was a second year PhD student, the Woolf Institute invited me to give a presentation on Muslim-Christian relations in Nigeria for its annual Research Day. The day after I gave the talk, the Institute formally invited me to join its community as an Honorary PhD Scholar and I accepted with great pleasure.

Over a period of two years at the Woolf, I participated in podcasts, book launches, and other events and Research Day programmes. One highlight of my time that especially sticks out was when Her Royal Highness Princess Anne visited the Institute in her capacity as royal patron and she and I briefly chatted about the growth of Pentecostalism in Nigeria. I am deeply grateful to the Woolf Institute for giving me my first chance to participate with the wider research ecosystem at the University of Cambridge and will always remember the warm and inclusive community of the place.

## **Upcoming Events**

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 Day



22 February Auslander Lecture Cambridge



Nowadays, I work as a Junior Research Fellow at Pembroke College, Oxford where I research the concept of Black religious transnationalism by studying how Nigerian Pentecostal megachurches expand their religious followings in Western contexts. Alongside my postdoctoral research activities, I also chair the Research Staff Consultation Group (RSCG), which functions as the University of Oxford's flagship representative institution for its talented community of well over 5,000 fixed-term researchers.

I wish you all a very happy Christmas season and good wishes for the new year.

Dr Chris Wadibia Research Fellow, Woolf Institute



23 February Auslander Lecture London (by invitation only)



30 March Iftar



6 June Woolf Institute Garden Party



# End of year message from our Executive Director

## DR ESTHER-MIRIAM WAGNER



As I write, snow is forecast over Britain. Term has finished and Cambridge is a city festooned with lights, crowded shops and for most of us, the expectation of family, food and celebration. Even with our tighter budgets we still see Christmas and Channukah as festive opportunities to indulge and regroup in our clans, draw in friends and remember those who are missing. When the Woolf Institute started 25 years ago it was in response to the conflict and torn societies ripped open by religious divide. As we enter this landmark anniversary next year I wish I could say the world was a more stable, harmonious place, but I can't. What I can say is that despite the atrocities committed in the name of faith and greed for power that tear societies apart, I believe more and more people are concerned and listening to one another, and the fact that places like the Woolf exist and flourish is testament to the desire and energy to create a better world. I wish you peace and happiness over the holiday period, whether for you that is celebrating Christmas, Channukah or good old downtime, and I hope to see you at one of our many anniversary events in 2023. May we celebrate what we have achieved and keep looking ahead to what is still to come. And may we be stronger together.

All the best, Miriam

## **8 BILLION AND COUNTING**

Naked Reflections Podcast x The Woolf Institute

IS THE WORLD POPULATION, AT EIGHT BILLION AND RISING, TOO HIGH?



#### **PODCAST: 8 BILLION AN COUNTING**

The United Nations recently announced that by their estimate World population passed the 8 billion mark in November 2022. World population is predicted to continue growing, peaking at just over 10 billion in the 2080s. Is this too high a number and if so what should we do about it? Abdallah Rothman and Ed Kessler reflect ...

**CLICK HERE TO LISTEN** 

## **COMING SOON**

Naked Reflections Podcast x The Woolf Institute

## TIME TO TALK

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