



Dear Woolf Friends,

Whether it's through education and public engagement, academic research or hard edged negotiation about the governance of Jerusalem's Holy Spaces, the Woolf Institute is always striving to help promote understanding and peace. So every October we take a keen interest in the announcement of the Nobel Peace Prize. No one would envy the Norway-based Committee its task. This year there were three hundred and forty three nominations to trawl through, two hundred and fifty one individuals and ninety two organizations. A massive labour, but the decision that the 2022 Award should be shared between one individual and two organizations showing exceptional courage in opposing Vladimir Putin and his cronies, seems to have been widely praised. Except in the Kremlin.

Ales Bialiatski is a veteran Belarussian human rights activist who is currently in goal. He is the fourth Peace Laureate to be honoured while in prison. The Committee had to consider whether awarding him the Prize would improve things or make them worse: a tough call.

The Center for Civil Liberties based in Ukraine has been meticulously documenting Russian war crimes in the country since the February invasion. And the Moscow-based human rights group Memorial was founded in the 1980s to establish an authoritative archive of the killings and disappearances perpetrated by Stalin. Vladimir Putin closed it down last year. On the day the Nobel Prize was announced, Memorial was back in court trying to stop the government seizing their remaining assets. The shared citation reads: "They have for many

Upcoming Events

18 October

Webinar: Mobility,
Belonging and
Community in the
Mediterranean City



19 October

@18:00
The Islamic
Movement in Israel
by Tilde Rosmer



25 October

Film Screening: The
Tinderbox



15 - 16

November

Woolf Institute
Conference



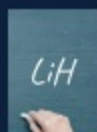
16 November

Woolf Institute
Research Afternoon



17 November

Living in Harmony
Teachers' Seminar



years promoted the right to criticize power and protect the fundamental rights of citizens”

Being on the Nobel Peace Prize Committee is a difficult task and in the past some of their Awards have been criticized. No fewer than four United States Presidents have been honoured, which would seem to indicate a certain bias in global strategic vision. The most recent of these was Barack Obama in 2009. Nominations closed only eleven days after he took office, which as President Obama himself graciously pointed out did not leave him much time to prove himself a worthy recipient. Perhaps there was an activist impulse here: trying to influence future outcomes rather than acknowledge past achievements. A brave but dangerous strategy. And a similar strategy seems to have backfired in 1973. In what was probably the most contentious award of all, Henry Kissinger and Le Doc Tho of North Vietnam were offered the Prize jointly after signing a ceasefire. The thinking was probably, let's help this ceasefire stick, but it did not. Fighting continued and two years later South Vietnam fell. In 2012 the Prize was awarded to the European Union in recognition of “six decades contributing to the advancement of peace, reconciliation, democracy and human rights in Europe.” Well maybe. Among potential deserving Laureates who missed out, we can count Mahatma Gandhi: close but no cigar.

The irony that Alfred Nobel accumulated his huge wealth by taking out a patent on dynamite (among other things) is well rehearsed and was not lost on the man himself. It's a reminder of the complexity of the human soul and of the fact that things are rarely straightforward. At the Woolf Institute we focus on religion and society, so as Orthodox priests sprinkle Holy Water on the heads of press ganged Russian conscripts to prepare them for war in Ukraine it's all the more important for us to reflect on the fact that that religion too can be abused by misguided leaders.

Best wishes,

David Perry
Woolf Media Consultant & Producer

22 November

The Quranic Notion
of the Soul and Its
Place in Science and
Psychology



23 November

Interfaith Mixer



30 November

Edward Said and the
Study of Religion



1 December

William Kessler
Essay Prize
Competition

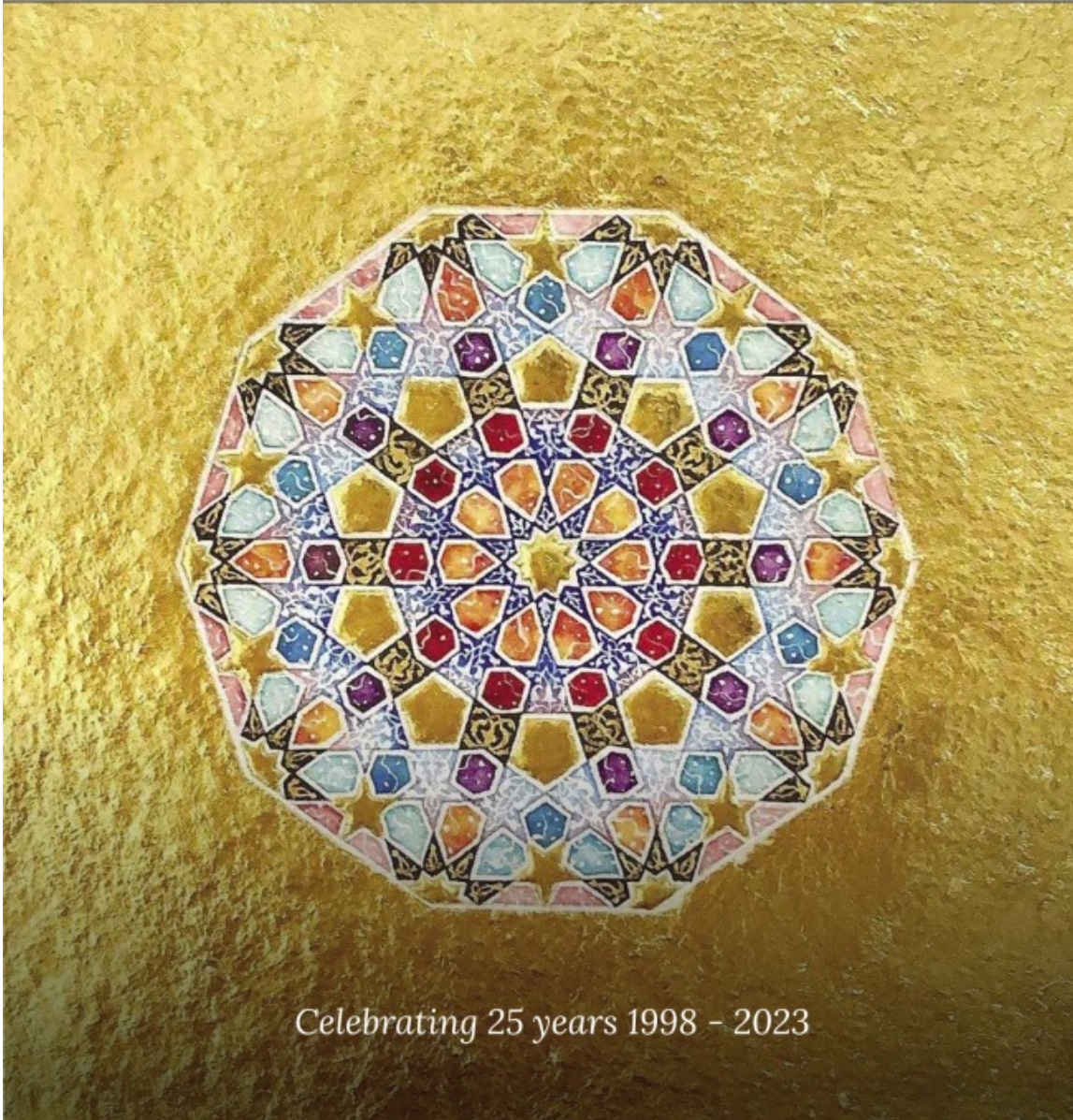


6 December

Reading Group:
Qur'an and Bible



Woolf Institute 2022/23 Annual Publication



The Woolf Institute Annual Publication 2022/23 is now available to download. This publication is full of information about current research, teaching, public education and forthcoming events.

We hope you enjoy reading and look forward to welcoming you to in-person and virtual events during this academic year.

[CLICK HERE TO READ TO ANNUAL PUBLICATION](#)

WEBINAR 18 OCTOBER @17:00

Woolf Institute and the Society for the Medieval
Mediterranean present:

Mobility, Belonging and Community in the Mediterranean City



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

This session offers a parallel analysis on the processes of community-building, social advancement and agency in the late medieval Mediterranean. It focuses on three cities that will take us from one shore of the Mediterranean to the other. The urban contexts of Barcelona, Venice and Constantinople allow us to delve into the different ways that individuals and groups strove to improve their position within the fabric of the late medieval city. Consequently, the papers in this session will consider issues such as the importance of sociability in the creation of belonging, the role of profession in the establishment of urban hierarchies and the agency of foreign communities in the shaping of urban life.

Speakers: Lisa Dallavalle, Özden Mercan, Carolina Obradors-Suazo

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

BOOK LAUNCH 19 OCTOBER @17:00

THE ISLAMIC MOVEMENT IN ISRAEL

TILDE ROSMER



Sara Cuevas/TNH

The Woolf Institute invites you to a talk on the occasion of the launch of *The Islamic Movement in Israel* by Tilde Rosmer.

Tilde Rosmer's research on collective identity formation and religious-political movements with a particular focus on Israel-Palestine is published in peer-reviewed journals such as the *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*; *Journal of Palestine Studies*; *Die Welt des Islams*; *Journal of Islamic Studies* and *Cultural Dynamics*. Rosmer's book on *The Islamic Movement in Israel* was published in March 2022 by University of Texas Press. Currently her research in the emerging field of Environmental Humanities focuses on awareness and knowledge of sustainability among Emirati youth.

This event will be chaired by Dr Julian Hargreaves.

[CLICK HERE IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND IN PERSON](#)

[CLICK HERE IF YOU WANT TO JOIN VIA ZOOM](#)

LIVING IN HARMONY TEACHERS' SEMINAR

17 NOVEMBER 2022



The Living in Harmony team has created a dynamic outreach programme based on research from the project to teach students across England about faith communities and coexistence through music. Currently, we offer fun and engaging workshops that provide students with a unique experience of Middle Eastern music, religion and history. We are now also providing training for teachers who are interested in expanding their knowledge of interfaith relations and acquiring new tools and lesson plans for the classroom.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

FEEDING BODY AND SOUL

Naked Reflections Podcast x The Woolf Institute

IN A WORLD OF THREATENED RESOURCES
AND GROWING POPULATION, HOW SHOULD
WE EAT SUSTAINABLY AND RESPONSIBLY?



It would be an exaggeration to say that there are as many beliefs about what and how we should eat as there are beliefs about religion but sometimes it feels that way. And like religious adherents, advocates of different dietary regimes often tussle to claim the moral high ground. David Clough and Lutfi Radwan consider the issues...

[CLICK HERE TO LISTEN](#)

COMING SOON

Naked Reflections Podcast x The Woolf Institute

HATE

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