



Dear Woolf Friends,

Spring, with its longer daylight hours, new buds on the trees, and – with a little bit of luck – increasingly sunny weather, is an annual reminder of new beginnings. Having weathered the hardest season of the year, we can look to the months ahead with renewed optimism.

The interrelated festivals of Passover and Easter, perfectly synchronised in 2022 so that Good Friday and first night Passover were celebrated on the same day, are also symbolic of endings and new beginnings. The retelling of the Passover story during the Seder meal encourages Jews to place themselves in the shoes of their ancestors fleeing slavery in Egypt, and marks the cusp between a life of hardship and suffering and the first steps towards a new life in the Promised Land. For Christians, Easter celebrates the end of Jesus' earthly life and his transcendence to sit at the right hand of God.

The placement of Passover and Easter during the Spring months has seemed particularly meaningful recently. In 2020, they were the first major religious festivals to be impacted by the pandemic. Being unable to attend synagogue or church services, or participate in long-held family traditions, made many of us feel both physically and spiritually detached from our family and our faith, and caused us to seek new ways to connect. Many families, including mine, turned to suddenly omnipresent online meeting spaces to unite with loved ones, which had both its advantages and disadvantages. Alongside the challenges of coordinating our Seder singing across different internet connections was the potential for a different sort of unity, with family members joining from London, Cambridge, Devon, Swansea, and even the United

States. One moment of religious harmony was my Anglican husband using a piece of homemade matzah (made experimentally in the absence of being able to go shopping) as part of his family's Good Friday communion service over Zoom.

This year has been, for many, the first time that families reunited in person for Passover Seders and Easter celebrations, although we also took advantage of the past two years' experience by connecting with absent family online. I had the added joy of viewing it all through the eyes of my four-year-old son, attending his first family Seder in three years. There has been, therefore, a chance to look upon these annual festivals afresh, making us appreciate them all the more for their symbolism and the perspectives they offer on our lives. At the Woolf Institute, we look forward to many future opportunities to connect with our Woolf family, with a renewed gratitude for the multiple ways in which we can celebrate and work together.

Best wishes,

Dr Danielle Padley
Research Fellow, Woolf Institute

Upcoming Events

26 April @17:00

Mobility, Belonging
and Community

POSTPONED



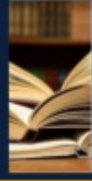
9 May @17:00

The Five Pillars of
Islam – A Jewish
Perspective



10 May @18:00

Reading Group:
Qur'an and Bible
(By invitation only)



12 May

London Research
Day
(By invitation only)



1 – 5 June

Patrons' Tour -
Istanbul
(By invitation only)



7 June @14:00

Jubilee Garden
Party
(By invitation only)



7 June @17:00

Archives and
record-keeping in
medieval Eastern
Mediterranean



12 June @14:00

The Written Word:
Timeless Arabic &
Hebrew Calligraphy



TUESDAY 26 APRIL @17:00

50th ANNIVERSARY

CAMBRIDGE THEOLOGICAL FEDERATION



50th ANNIVERSARY CAMBRIDGE THEOLOGICAL FEDERATION

The Cambridge Theological Federation celebrates its 50th anniversary. A special celebration to mark this important occasion is being held on Tuesday 26 April. If you would like to join the event via Zoom, please email eth22@cam.ac.uk. The event will include the launch of *The Cambridge Theological Federation: A Journey in Ecumenical Learning* by Dame Mary Tanner MBE and Dr Ian Randall. To purchase a copy of the book, contact enquiries@theofed.cam.ac.uk.

[READ MORE: The Cambridge Theological Federation](#)

[READ MORE: A Journey in Ecumenical Learning – 50 years of the Federation](#)

DR JULIAN HARGREAVES

PRESENTING AT

THE BRITISH ACADEMY



Dr Julian Hargreaves, Director of Research, is presenting his work on diversity in the UK at the British Academy on Tuesday 26 April. The event is part of the University of Cambridge's ongoing programme linking Cambridge researchers with senior policy advisers from the UK Government.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

WEBINAR 26 APRIL @17:00

Woolf Institute and the Society for the Medieval
Mediterranean

MOBILITY, BELONGING AND COMMUNITY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN CITY

POSTPONED

POSTPONED

WEBINAR: MOBILITY, BELONGING AND COMMUNITY IN THE
MEDITERRANEAN CITY - 26 APRIL @17:00

Unfortunately we had to postpone the upcoming webinar Mobility, Belonging and Community in the Mediterranean City to our next season starting in September. The next webinar organised jointly by Woolf Institute and the Society for the Medieval Mediterranean, will take place on 17 May @17:00

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

SEX

Naked Reflections Podcast x The Woolf Institute

WHAT DOES MAINSTREAM RELIGION MAKE OF
THE KAMA SUTRA?



PODCAST: SEX

What does mainstream religion make of the Kama Sutra?

To read the KAMA SUTRA or the SONG OF SONGS you might feel religion is obsessed with sex. Yet so often the discussion of sex has been a problem in Churches, Temples, Synagogues and Mosques. The relatively new phenomenon of gender dysphoria presents another problem for religious traditionalists. Sonia Leach and Shanon Shah survey the territory...

[CLICK HERE TO LISTEN](#)

COMING SOON

Naked Reflections Podcast x The Woolf Institute

PREPARING TO DIE

CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION

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