



Dear Woolf Friends,

Ramadan has always embodied for me a delightfully delicate paradox: it is at once a month of renunciation and fulfilment, of stillness and activity, of turning inwards in contemplation and reaching outwards in charity. Ramadan entwines the austerity of fasting with the abundance of festivity: even as this month prescribes certain physical and spiritual rigours, a vibrant celebratory spirit pervades Muslim households and communities as families come together to share the evening meal and neighbours gather in fellowship at the local mosque.

Growing up in East London, which has a large Muslim population, Ramadan was always a joyously communal affair. When picking up their kids from school, Muslim parents would often bring home-cooked food and share it with other Muslim families. I would attend the local mosque with my best friend for the late-night prayers (*tarawih*), and we'd pray or chat the night away until it was time to eat again in the early morning. A classic Ramadan dish in my family, which my siblings and I would look forward to every year, was my mother's delectable 'fruit chaat' – a mixture of different fresh fruits which my mother would flavour with a colourful medley of warm, inviting spices and a generous showering of mango juice. We would all break our fast with this fruity concoction (it is a tradition in Muslim households to break the fast with something sweet), before praying together and then eating the main evening meal. Paradoxically, in this month of abstention *from* food, such tender and devoted attention was paid *to* food – my mum cooked some of our family's most cherished meals *only* in Ramadan, when the act of

preparing food for others is said to be saturated with an even greater spiritual abundance. Through this delicious interweaving of renouncing and relishing, Ramadan is a time when existing relations are strengthened and new ones are nurtured, and we are rejuvenated both physically and spiritually in connection to God and to our fellow humans.

With best wishes,

Hina Khalid
Honorary PhD Scholar, Woolf Institute



Upcoming Events

27 April

Woolf Institute in
New York



3 May

Kessler Celebration



9 May

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



6 June


Woolf Institute
Garden Party



10 - 21 July

Woolf Institute
Summer School



WOOLF INSTITUTE KESSLER CELEBRATION

Join us to celebrate the 25 year legacy of our Founder President Dr Edward Kessler MBE on the occasion of his birthday



MAY

3

14:00-17:00

JOIN US FOR:

- Celebratory birthday cake and bubbles
- 'Leading Women': a panel discussion of shifts in women's leadership in the Abrahamic faiths
- Formal unveiling of our renamed building


KESSLER CELEBRATION

Join us at the Woolf Institute for our Kessler Celebration on 3 May 2023. We will be celebrating the legacy of our Founder President, Dr Edward Kessler MBE, on the occasions of his birthday and the Institute's 25th anniversary.

The celebration begins at 14:00 and will include:

- Birthday cake and presentations
- 'Leading Women': a panel discussion on the shifts in women's leadership in the Abrahamic faiths over the past 25 years
- Formal unveiling of our newly renamed building

Events will conclude at 17:00. We look forward to celebrating together with Woolf Institute alumni and friends.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

Woolf Institute In New York

27 April 2023



THE WOOLF INSTITUTE IS GOING TO NEW YORK

At the end of April, The Woolf Institute will be visiting New York. We will be meeting alumni and friends, and Dr Katherine O'Lone will be giving a talk entitled '*Belfast; Have the Ghosts Left?*' based on her research. This will take place at the Cambridge in America premises at 1120 Avenue of the Americas.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Good Friday

Agreement. In this talk, Dr Katherine O'Lone will explore the psychological and moral landscape of post-conflict Northern Ireland. Dr O'Lone argues that we can better understand peace by exploring the patterns surrounding how people think about reconciliation, forgiveness and justice in the aftermath of violent conflict. In Northern Ireland, despite the passage of twenty-five years since the GFA, the scars of 'The Troubles' continue to influence how people reason and think about moral issues, such as fairness, harm and justice. The conflict has ended but this talk suggests the ghosts are still there.

The talk will be followed by questions and discussion, and a reception to which all are welcome.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

[FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT FLORA MOFFIE](#)

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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