



# WOOLF INSTITUTE



*Dr Andrew Reed of Brigham Young University, Utah, reflects on the impact of the Woolf summer school and remembers his own experience of first coming to Cambridge and the then Centre for Jewish-Christian Relations 16 years ago.*

Dear Woolf Friends,

In summer 2022, seventeen undergraduate students from Brigham Young University in Utah, US, joined other students in an intensive summer school program at the Woolf Institute. The course, led by Miriam Wagner and Emma Harris, guided students through a wide range of topics centered around the theme “Religion and Society: From the Medieval to the Modern.” To be a part of bringing students to the Woolf Institute was a deeply meaningful experience for me. It signaled a joint effort on the part of the Institute’s founding director, Ed Kessler, with Miriam and Emma, to formalize a relationship with my home institution, a religiously affiliated university that is engaged in the work of expanding student capacities for interfaith leadership. Additionally, it provided me and Dr Paul Kerry (BYU) with an opportunity to connect our students to a group of people and a place that holds particular meaning for us as we have both been shaped in many ways by the Woolf Institute.

It was as a student at the Centre for Jewish-Christian Relations (CJCR) between 2006 and 2008 that I had my first experience of thinking about the nature of interfaith work. The CJCR, which later became the Woolf Institute, framed the experiences that helped me sort through the complexity of religion and society. This period also gave me space to wrestle with the thought of people like the late Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks, who argued that “peace

## Upcoming Events

15 - 16  
November  
Woolf Institute  
Conference



16 November  
Woolf Institute  
Research Afternoon



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



15 November  
Shared Sacred Space  
and the Mosque in the  
Medieval  
Mediterranean



23 November  
Interfaith Mixer



30 November



is a paradox” and insisted that religious communities and religious traditions be solutions to modern challenges. Those words ring truer today than they did in 2002 when he wrote about them in *The Dignity of Difference: How to Avoid the Clash of Civilizations*.

For the students on the summer program this year, the Woolf Institute, its staff and affiliated faculty provided a similar kind of experience for my students that earlier motivated me to work in the world of interfaith relations and to commit to working toward solutions to big problems that divide people and communities. I anticipate that in the future those students and others like them will be well situated for this role in large part because of the work of the Woolf in educating and empowering them.

Best Wishes,

Andy Reed  
Associate Professor, Brigham Young University

Edward Said and the  
Study of Religion



1 December

William Kessler  
Essay Prize  
Competition



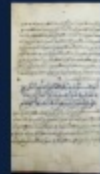
6 December

Reading Group:  
Qur'an and Bible



13 December

Historiography and  
Politics in the Late  
Medieval Islamic  
Mediterranean



16 & 17 January

Perspectives on  
Judaism and Islam



8 February

London Research  
Day



## Woolf Institute Conference

### Faith, Trust & Relationships

A two-day academic conference in Cambridge exploring harmony and tension between faith communities, people of no faith, and social, political and cultural environments.

**TUESDAY 15 & WEDNESDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2022**

The Woolf Institute invites you to a two-day conference in Cambridge.

The conference will explore themes linking religious studies and subjects concerning faith, trust and relationships. We will examine how these themes (taken individually or collectively) create, or have created, harmony or tension between faith communities, between people of all faiths and none, or between

people of faith and their social, political and cultural environments.

We define our terms broadly:

"Faith" is taken to mean any belief in or acceptance of doctrines of a religion.

"Trust" is taken to mean believing in or reliance on the honesty, reliability and ability of another

"Relationships" is taken to mean connections between people, communities, or religious, social and cultural practices.

We will start at 12:00 on 15 November and at 09:00 on 16 November

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

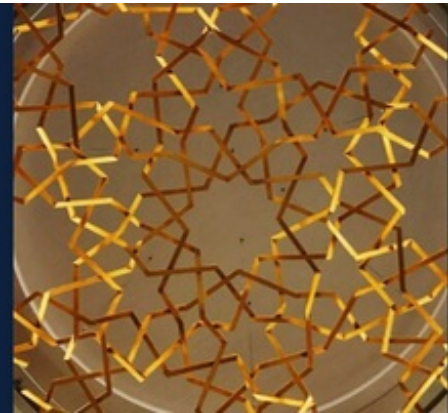
[CLICK HERE FOR THE CONFERENCE SCHEDULE](#)

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# Woolf Institute

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## Research Afternoon



**WEDNESDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2022 @ 14:30 - 18:45**

Join the Woolf Institute to hear from its multidisciplinary researchers from around the world. For one afternoon, the Woolf Institute research team will convene in Cambridge to discuss their research and propose ideas for the future.

On Wednesday 16 November, researchers will report on their work in a wide variety of fields. We hope that the research afternoon will offer a unique opportunity to evaluate and further develop our diverse research into contemporary religion and society.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR THE RESEARCH AFTERNOON SCHEDULE](#)

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# William Kessler Essay Prize Competition



UK undergraduate and graduate students (Masters level) are invited to submit an essay (up to 1,500 words) which broadly addresses one of the following topics:

- Interfaith Encounters on Campus and in Academia
- Secular Societies, Religious Followers; Opportunities? Challenges?
- Modern Identities - the Intersection between Race, Faith and Gender
- Lessons from the Past: How Interfaith Work can Benefit from Historical Research

Essays will be judged by the Woolf Institute's leading academic staff. The top six essay writers will be invited to present their essays in a virtual event which will take place at the beginning of December 2022. An expert panel will then vote on the winner, who will receive a prize of £250. In addition, the top three essays will be published on our website and social media platforms.

Essays should be sent as a Word or pdf document to [education@woolf.cam.ac.uk](mailto:education@woolf.cam.ac.uk)

**4 NOVEMBER** Competition Deadline

**17 NOVEMBER** Shortlisted essays announced

**1 DECEMBER** Presentation Event



[CLICK HERE TO SEND IN YOUR ESSAY](#)

# HOPE AND FEAR

*Naked Reflections Podcast x The Woolf Institute*

WE ALL FACE DEATH, AND THIS SENSE OF AN ENDING IS EXPRESSED IN RELIGION AND ART. DOES SCIENCE PROVIDE A MORE COMFORTING PERSPECTIVE?



For Muslims it's coming, but it's shrouded in mystery; for Christians it's straightforwardly the return of Christ; for Hindus there's the get-out card of reincarnation. But the notion of apocalypse - the end of time - runs deep even for secular types. Beth Phillips and Mansur Ali check it out...

[CLICK HERE TO LISTEN](#)

## COMING SOON

*Naked Reflections Podcast x The Woolf Institute*

## MODERN SLAVERY

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

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for as little as £10 a month

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