



Dear Woolf Friends,

The end of my time in Cambridge and as a PhD Scholar at the Woolf Institute is bitter-sweet. The four years I spent there count among the most impactful in my growth as a scholar. Initially, my research topic was *about* religion, and specifically about the very human dilemmas posed to people inhabiting different religious backgrounds as they attempted to translate to one another the spiritual, moral, and political stakes of living peacefully together. Through my immersion in the interdisciplinary environment at the Woolf Institute I came to see the value of thinking *with* religion. I was company to theologians, textual scholars, historians, chaplains, and other social scientists from Jewish, Christian, and Muslim faiths all of whom helped me to hone my research questions and to discern new horizons of understanding. Leaving that environment is indeed the bitter part, but there is sweetness in the continued influence it will have on my intellectual life.

In 2023, I will begin my next chapter as a Post-doctoral Fellow at McGill University's School for Religious Studies and the Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies on Montreal (CIRM). My project will explore the ethics and politics of religion in public amongst evangelical church planters who appropriate legally designated heritage church buildings in view of transforming them into non-exclusively Christian "community hubs". Across Canada, historical church buildings are being deconsecrated and repurposed, even demolished, to make room for new developments. Openly taking advantage of the cultural and economic privileges of Canada's Christian material religious heritage, the evangelical

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



network under study salvages church buildings and aims to persuade municipal institutions that sacred spaces have public social value. I will examine the spiritual, political, and economic stakes of these actors' attempts to reconfigure the material boundary between the secular and the sacred, as well as how they navigate questions around indigeneity, new religious diversity from immigration, and the disproportionate advantages afforded to colonial religious infrastructure in Canada.


Best wishes,

Dr Samuel Victor
Former PhD Scholar, Woolf Institute




23 February

Auslander Lecture
London
(by invitation only)




30 March

Iftar



6 June

Woolf Institute
Garden Party



Wednesday 22 February 2023 @17:00

The day Kafka killed his iPhone

by Shalom Auslander

WOOLF INSTITUTE | KC SHASHA SUITE
MADINGLEY ROAD | CAMBRIDGE | CB3 0UB

Shalom is the first recipient of the Peter Gilbert Prize, an award jointly supported by the Woolf Institute and Jewish Renaissance.



Scan the QR code
to register



On Wednesday 22 February 2023, renowned US author Shalom Auslander will speak on 'The day Kafka killed his iPhone'. Shalom is the first recipient of the Peter Gilbert Prize, an award jointly supported by the Woolf Institute (Cambridge) and Jewish Renaissance.

This literary honour is given to the writer of the best article from Jewish Renaissance magazine, as judged by an expert panel. "This award should engage the contribution of the Jewish creative spirit to the intellectual and artistic life of the 20th century," said Adam Glinsman, who established the

prize, which is named for his much-loved uncle. Shalom won the award for his imaginative, humorous and perceptive insight into Franz Kafka and the great writer's relationship with his home city, Prague.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)



Introducing our 25th anniversary logo!

This year the Woolf Institute celebrates its 25th year. Throughout the year we'll be reminiscing about our early days, what we've accomplished so far, & how our work will continue to develop in our newsletter and on our social media channels.

London Patrons' Tour

Join us for a day in London exploring the interfaith history of this wonderful city.

26 January 2023



[Contact Flora Moffie for more information](#)

London Research Day

Bringing the best presentations from the Annual Research Day to the Metropolis.

8 February 2023



[Contact Flora Moffie for more information](#)

TIME TO STOP TALKING?

Naked Reflections Podcast x The Woolf Institute

IS IT SOMETIMES NECESSARY OR EVEN PRODUCTIVE TO STOP NEGOTIATING?



PODCAST: TIME TO STOP TALKING?

Is it sometimes necessary or even productive to stop negotiating?

If you asked the Astronomer Royal, Martin Rees, to discuss cosmology with a "flat-Earther", he would probably politely decline. But when it comes to more nuanced matters than scientific truth, is there ever a case for calling a halt to dialogue? Alfred Moore and Chris Wadibia consider the question...

[CLICK HERE TO LISTEN](#)

COMING SOON

Naked Reflections Podcast x The Woolf Institute

GOOD LUCK

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