Dear Woolf Friends,

The Woolf Research Days are a valuable opportunity to present the work of some of our best young researchers to audiences in brief TED-style talks. These occasions also give our students and academics an opportunity to practise the delivery of their research in short, accessible talks, something which will stand them in good stead as their academic careers or policy work develops. Our Cambridge Research Day in November was a great success and generated much interest in the topics discussed. This week six of our best young academics, led by Dr Esther-Miriam Wagner, Executive Director of Woolf, and Julian Hargreaves, Director of Research, went to London to present their work to an invited audience at law firm Mishcon de Reya. Rather in the style of a famous BBC panel game the researchers were only allowed 4 minutes each to describe their projects, a challenge to which they all rose admirably. For the highly engaged audience these nuggets were a glimpse into the worlds of Jewish music in Victorian Britain, forgiveness and future-building in Northern Ireland, mental health in Muslim communities, Syrian musicians in Turkey, the Commission on the Integration of Refugees and the literary role of Jews within Qur'anic Exegesis. The discussion afterwards, like the topics themselves, ranged widely, from the historic and literary to the highly contemporary and political. The evening demonstrated once again the impact of Woolf on society and the interdisciplinary collaboration between academics and researchers, faith leaders and policy makers it engenders.
We are extremely grateful to David Leibowitz, former trustee of the Woolf Institute and partner at Mishcon de Reya for hosting us so generously. We were delighted by the extremely warm reception by the law firm and the truly delicious food and drink provided for our guests which added enormously to the enjoyment of the occasion. Grateful thanks also go to Dr Kitty O’Lone, Mohammed Ibraheem Ahmed, Dr Danielle Padley, Seherish Abrar, Dunya Habash and Christopher Cooper-Davies who all spoke so passionately about their work. More details about each of the projects mentioned here can be found on our website.

Best wishes,

Liz Winter
Development Consultant, Woolf Institute
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 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 award in honour of his late father, Peter Gilbert.
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.

PODCAST: GOOD LUCK

A light-hearted discussion about positive thinking in bad times.

Can positive thinking create its own momentum, or to put it another way, does negativity reap its own bad harvest? Dr Esther-Miriam Wagner and Robert Tombs read the runes.

COMING SOON

THE POLITICS OF MUSIC