Dear Woolf Friends,

Over the past few weeks the Woolf Institute, basking as it has been in the hot summer sun, has been a vibrant place, busy with events and the participants in the various programmes we organise at this time of year. Two of these stand out for me; the ISGAP three-day conference on Global Antisemitism and the first Woolf Institute summer school students from the US, Israel and UK. Despite the thorny and challenging topics under discussion, all our visitors managed to enjoy the wonderful weather and beautiful gardens and appreciate their time in Cambridge as a very special place.

The conference on Global Antisemitism, organised with our partners at ISGAP, saw over 70 delegates in person, and many more online. This was one of our biggest indoor events this year and the whole building was buzzing with an atmosphere of intense intellectual engagement. A strong contingent of Muslim delegates joined our discussions, helping us to develop a positive programme of future activities. Antisemitism is unarguably one crucial aspect of a toxic culture of bigotry and racism. As Rabbi Jonathan Sacks taught us, ‘The hate that begins with Jews never ends with Jews.’

After two years of postponement, we were finally able to run our first Summer School, which included students from our partners at Brigham Young University in the United States, and others from Israel and Britain. What the students described as a great experience for them was also a joyous and inspiring experience for those of us who taught them. We learned from each other, and the level of commitment and enthusiasm from the students was
Many students described the time here as one which expanded their horizons, taught them to think differently and made them eager to learn more about other faiths and cultures. We intend that this will be the first in a long series of equally vibrant and fruitful summer schools and we look forward to welcoming new faces – and hopefully some familiar ones – again next year. This exchange of points of view, life experiences and expanding horizons is at the heart of what the Woolf Institute stands for and we are proud to be a place where discussion and understanding of other faiths flourishes and is encouraged. We wish you a relaxing summer and hope to see many of you in the next academic year – our 25th anniversary.

Best wishes,

Dr Esther-Miriam Wagner
Executive Director, Woolf Institute
WOOLF INSTITUTE SUMMER SCHOOL

After two years of postponement, we were finally able to run our first Summer School, which included students from our partners at Brigham Young University in the United States, and others from Israel and Britain. We have tried to capture the atmosphere of these amazing two weeks in a few pictures below.
From July 31st until August 2nd, The Institute for the Study of Global Antisemitism and Policy (ISGAP), in association with the Woolf Institute, hosted a global conference on critical contemporary antisemitism. The interdisciplinary conference, entitled “Global Antisemitism: A Crisis of Modernity Revisited”, was attended by leading scholars from more than 20 countries, policy experts, and researchers. The 90 attendees are committed to the free exchange of ideas required to map, decode and combat contemporary antisemitism.

The conference contributes to ISGAP’s mission of developing a framework Critical Contemporary Antisemitism Studies as a recognised academic discipline. The conference also helps to grow an international network of scholars engaged in this crucial and timely work. ISGAP had the privilege of hosting researchers from the United Arab Emirates, from the TRENDS Research Institute, indicative of the warming people-to-people relationships budding between Israel and the U.A.E. This represents the shifting tides in the Middle East with the signing of the Abraham Accords.
PODCAST: ODDS ON EITHER WAY

Gambling can take place in a bedroom, on the High Street or on a train. Is its ubiquity a problem for a few or for many?

Two and a half billion pounds was wagered on the last soccer World Cup in the U.K. alone. There are reckoned to be 400 thousand problem gamblers in this country and that could well be an under-estimate. So should we regard gambling as a potentially serious addiction or just a bit of fun? Mark Griffiths and Ben Ryan check the odds...

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