



Dear Woolf Friends,

At the end of April I joined the Woolf Institute in the new role of Public Engagement Fellow. The Woolf Institute has a long history of publicly-engaged, outward-facing programmes and I am honoured to now have oversight of the development and delivery of this aspect of the Institute's work.

But why 'public engagement'? The outward-facing work of institutions like Woolf has historically carried labels such as 'public education' or 'outreach' or other similar titles. I prefer to speak of 'public engagement' because it brings our vocabulary into alignment with what we already do at Woolf. Language about educating others or reaching out *to* them can sound entirely one-directional and one-sided: as if *we* have all the important content and we are going to give it *to* you. But our actual experience and practice at Woolf is more mutual and interdependent: we *engage* with many people, groups, and sectors beyond the institute to share our learning *as well as* to learn from them – to disseminate our expertise as well as to explore and partner with important faith and interfaith communities, relationships, networks, and realities. Together we work towards building trust between people and communities of faith, and between these communities and other local, societal, and national communities and institutions.

For example, one of our public engagement programmes, *Living in Harmony*, has allowed us to deliver sessions to over 4000 school students sharing our expertise about positive cultural encounters between Jews and Muslims through

Upcoming Events

30 September-
1 October

Symposium:
Searching for the
Sacred in South Asia



11 October

Reading Group:
Qur'an and Bible



13 - 15 October

Musicians and
Artists in Exile:
Preserving, Creating
or Eulogizing Syrian
Culture?



19 October
@18:00

The Islamic
Movement in Israel
by Tilde Rosmer



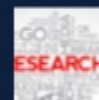
15 - 16
November

Woolf Institute
Conference



16 November

Woolf Institute
Research



music, and it has also allowed us to learn about Religious Education in secondary schools, technology and techniques for engaging students in learning about religion, and the questions and interests of these students. This learning continuously reshapes the programme as it continues.

In November we will be hosting RE teachers to share with them what we have learned, and also to learn from them about their experiences as RE teachers, as well as what programmes and resources they would value from us as we shape our public engagement plans for the coming years. This will be an important professional development opportunity for the teachers who attend, and an important opportunity for us to learn more from the RE teaching community. If you teach RE or know someone who does, we hope you will contact us for information and to register:

livinginharmony@woolf.cam.ac.uk. Or you can help us learn through our survey of RE teachers [here](#).

I look forward to learning from you, and to all the ways we will continue to engage with one another, sharing lived experiences of faith, building trust, and making space for mutual encounter.

Best wishes,

Dr Elizabeth Phillips
Public Engagement Fellow, Woolf Institute

Research Afternoon



17 November

Living in Harmony
Teachers' Seminar



23 November

Interfaith Mixer



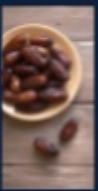
1 December

William Kessler
Essay Prize
Competition



30 March

Iftar



6 June

Woolf Institute
Garden Party



LIVING IN HARMONY TEACHERS' SEMINAR

17 NOVEMBER 2022



LIVING IN HARMONY TEACHERS' SEMINAR

The Living in Harmony team has created a dynamic outreach programme based on research from the project to teach students across England about faith communities and coexistence through music. Currently, we offer fun and engaging workshops that provide students a unique experience of Middle Eastern music, religion and history. We are now also providing training for teachers who are interested in expanding their knowledge of interfaith relations and acquiring new tools and lesson plans for the classroom.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

QUR'AN AND BIBLE READING GROUP



READING GROUP: QUR'AN AND BIBLE 11 OCTOBER @18:00

This reading group, convened by Rick Sopher and chaired by Dr Esther-Miriam Wagner, is anchored in a project which compares Torah portions of the week to the relevant Qur'anic passages. Matters discussed will include similarities and differences in biblical and Qur'anic narratives, infallibility of prophets, scriptural hostility, the availability of Jewish sources in Arabia in the 7th century and the benefits of studying one another's scriptures.

“Faith and Family in the Qur'an: The Cases of Noah, Abraham, and Moses”

In this session we will be joined by Prof. Gabriel Reynolds.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

BLASPHEMY ON THE BIG SCREEN

Naked Reflections Podcast x The Woolf Institute

WHEN THE FILM LADY OF HEAVEN WAS
RELEASED, THERE WERE VIGOROUS
PROTESTS AND CINEWORLD WITHDREW THE
FILM. WHAT WAS GOING ON?



PODCAST: BLASPHEMY ON THE BIG SCREEN

When the film LADY OF HEAVEN was released, there were vigorous protests and Cineworld withdrew the film. What was going on?

There is no orthodoxy that could not have been construed as blasphemous

when it started. Christianity was accused by Jews of being blasphemous for proclaiming Jesus as divine, and Muhammad was criticised by his polytheistic Arab contemporaries for preaching monotheism. So how do the movies come into it? Emanuelle Degli Esposti and Mohammed Ahmed explain...

[CLICK HERE TO LISTEN](#)

COMING SOON

Naked Reflections Podcast x The Woolf Institute

FEEDING BODY AND SOUL

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

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