



Dear Woolf Friends,

“Do you know anyone who would be interested in working as my PA?”, came the question from Ed Kessler. I did, and the rest, as they say, is history.

I am thinking back on my journey at the Woolf Institute. I first started working with Ed in 2001 at what was then called the Centre for Jewish-Christian Relations in a small office at Wesley House on Jesus Lane. We had a head count of five and it felt like family. One of my main duties was arranging major fundraising dinners. I noticed at an early stage our work attracted the interest of eminent figures such as Lord Woolf, after whom the Institute was eventually named in 2010, and Prince Philip whose interest was shared by his daughter, The Princess Royal, who became our Royal Patron.

Trisha Kessler, Ed’s wife, was responsible for setting up the Public Education side of the Institute which is amongst the most important areas of our work and has now grown into an established Public Engagement programme, headed up by Dr Beth Phillips.

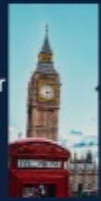
Like with all families, responsibilities shift and jobs change. My story is no different. I worked closely with Ed as his PA for over 12 years, firstly on fundraising events, but along the way, I witnessed Memoranda of Understanding, the completion of a £10m capital appeal and the establishment of three centres of interfaith relations. I also saw interfaith awards received, and happily connected with many hundreds of supporters. In 2020 during lockdown, the Institute needed to diversify and I took on the



## Upcoming Events

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



post of podcast producer. My evolving role has gone full circle, and I have been given the role of arranging our amazing programme of events to celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

And now, 25 years on, the brightest minds still come and go, acquiring knowledge to help society and religion work better together. We occupy a beautiful building in the middle of Cambridge, admired by all who visit, and our increasingly important vision is focussed on the next 25 years.

What an incredible journey!

Best wishes,

Claire Curran  
Major Campaigns Manager & Podcast Producer,  
Woolf Institute

Auslander Lecture  
Cambridge



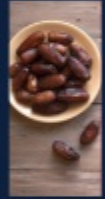
23 February

Auslander Lecture  
London  
(by invitation only)



30 March

Iftar



6 June

Woolf Institute  
Garden Party



**WEBINAR 31 JANUARY @ 17:00**

Woolf Institute and the Society for the Medieval  
Mediterranean present:

## Making Martyrs in Medieval Iberia



DR KATI IHNAT



DR MELANIE  
SHAFFER



CATHRIEN  
HOIJINCK

### WEBINAR 31 JANUARY @ 17:00 MAKING MARTYRS IN MEDIEVAL IBERIA

The Woolf Institute together with the Society for the Medieval Mediterranean invite you to their webinar series.

Devotional culture in early medieval Iberia was dominated by martyrs. With very few records of non-martyr saints, we are left to wonder what made martyrs such compelling figures. In this seminar, we will explore some of the ways martyrs were imagined and constructed in Iberia through a variety of different source types: theological, liturgical and musical. Placing the veneration of martyr saints in its historical context will allow us to address broader questions of its role in Christian-Muslim relations, cultural transfer across the Mediterranean, and the meaning of sanctity for medieval Christians.

The speakers are: Kati Ihnat (Radboud University Nijmegen), Melanie Shaffer (Radboud University Nijmegen) and Cathrien Hoijinck (Radboud University Nijmegen)

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

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](#)



The Woolf Institute has organised for a group of staff, students and long-term supporters to meet the Archbishop of Canterbury. The aim is to learn more about the Church of England's priorities for the communities it represents and serves, and about the challenges it faces. We also want to explore what role interfaith engagement can play in facilitating us coming together as a society, and the ways in which the Woolf Institute's research and public engagement can best support the Church and religious communities in Britain.

[Contact Flora Moffie for more information](#)



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## 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

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

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for as little as £10 a month

[Click here to donate](#)



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