Wooff Institute Jubilee Garden Party 2022
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*Front Cover: Nukta by Maaida Noor
Inside Front Cover: Photo by Mark Box*
Dear Woolf supporters,

A few weeks ago, I was talking to a senior colleague from the University, who told me that encountering the Institute’s Muslim students and researchers had fundamentally shifted his perception of Islam and of Muslims within British society.

On reflection, he thought this was because previously he had encountered Muslims in a range of other contexts, which tended perhaps unconsciously to bring out the differences between him and them, but now he was meeting them as other members of his own profession, which strongly brought out the similarities uniting them. They were all academics and had become friends, and this common identity made their religious or ethnic differences less tangible. He was simply less aware of difference, and more aware of similarities.

I have observed the same phenomenon in my work on medieval Jewish, Muslim and Christian traders in the Middle East, who developed a common language and networks of trust for their mutual benefit.

We at the Woolf work together on a variety of projects but with a common overall purpose. So do all sorts of organisations with which we work: secondary schools, hospitals, regiments and, of course, universities. All create communities, what Edmund Burke called ‘the little platoons’ of society.

Integration of different ethnic or religious groups is not something that has to be forced from above, it probably cannot be. But it does happen naturally as society functions, and its little platoons perform their diversity of tasks. Dysfunctional societies cannot create community – communities emerge from the workings of society.

So our job is to facilitate this self-creation by being a catalyst within society, that extra ingredient that helps the process forward and speeds it up. We create links, provide spaces, organise meaningful encounters and discover friendships. We may not be able to change society, but we can help society to change itself.

With my very best wishes,

From our Executive Director

Left: Dr Esther-Miriam Wagner (Executive Director) and Shabir Randeree CBE (Chair of the Board of Trustees)
As most of you will be aware, 2023 is the 25th anniversary of the Woolf Institute. Back in 1998, when Ed Kessler and Martin Forward were busy founding the Centre for Jewish-Christian Relations (which would later become known as the Woolf Institute), the world was a very different place. Tony Blair was Prime Minister, President Clinton was heading for impeachment, the Good Friday Agreement was being signed and water was found on the moon. General Pinochet was indicted for human rights violations, Khmer-Rouge leaders finally apologised for the genocide of a million people in Cambodia and in Qamishli, Syria, the last native speaker of Mlahso, Ibrahim Hanna, died, making the language effectively extinct.

Against this backdrop of change and turbulence, Ed and Martin were building an academic institute where people could tackle the questions of religious difference constructively and in a safe environment. Twenty five years later, the Woolf has grown and flourished in its wonderful new building. It is a place where students and academics from all over the world and different faiths work together and get to know one another. In the words of one Summer School student this year ‘Until I came to the Woolf, I hadn’t realised how very much we have in common with people of other faiths and cultures. I never really understood this before and it has changed me. I will return to my country with an entirely different perspective and a heartfelt desire to continue this work.’

The anniversary year will celebrate the past and the present. We will look back in wonder and appreciation, and we will look forward with optimism and enthusiasm. Please join us for some of the events including the naming of the building with the Kessler family, the Anniversary Dinner, the Woolf Diversity Study 2 launch, the Anniversary Garden Party and the Anniversary Lecture. If you are not already a Friend of the Woolf, please consider joining us, see page 52. In this celebratory year, we have decided all income from the Friends’ Scheme will go to student support, to help and encourage students to study here and become the next generation of peacemakers and mediators towards a harmonious future. As Miriam says in her introduction, ‘We may not be able to change society, but we can help society to change itself.’

Special Anniversary Events
Dinner with Baroness Hale of Richmond
Building naming event with the Kessler family
London Research Evening
Literary Prize dinner
Patrons’ tour (Saudi Arabia)
Woolf Diversity Study Launch
US fundraisers (New York, Boston, Miami)
Anniversary dinner
Anniversary Garden party
Autumn lecture
Our Events Calendar 2022/23 will continue with a combination of in-house and virtual events. Join us for our exciting new programme in the upcoming academic year – from our very popular Research Day to new academic series and events celebrating the Institute’s Silver Jubilee. We have just purchased the OWL which will also enable us to produce good quality hybrid meetings, so you will be able to view various in-person events from the comfort of your armchair.

You can become involved as we facilitate encounter between members of different communities, address hot topics and pressing current issues and organise high level academic debates on important issues. We are planning many more events, panels, concerts and academic conferences, some are still being finalised; so please check over Events pages and the Events bar in our weekly newsletter regularly for the latest details.

For the latest programme: www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/whats-on/events

Contact Flora Moffie: fm547@cam.ac.uk to receive our newsletter

Our Founders, Dr Ed Kessler MBE and The Revd Prof. Martin Forward, in 1998.
Exhibition: The Written Word:
Timeless Arabic and Hebrew Calligraphy

We are accustomed to seeing the written word in the context of mottos, phrases, clauses and sentences. *The Written Word: Timeless Arabic and Hebrew Calligraphy* exhibition invites us to step out of that linear pattern and see the written word in the context of its quintessence: an elegant representation of vast concepts and ideas. It is no wonder that the Abrahamic faiths developed a skillful process of training that became the art of calligraphy in order to represent the words of God in the most beautiful manner.

Co-curated by Woolf Institute PhD Scholars Dunya Habash and Mohammed Ahmed, this exhibition explores the historical and metaphysical connections between text and how text is represented in the Abrahamic traditions. Text as a way of preserving God’s communication with humanity became an essential part of preserving the word of God, exemplified most clearly in the Torah, Qur’an and the Gospels. Beautifying this script became part of devotion to the holy books and also an expression of art against iconoclasm, focusing more on calligraphic and geometric designs instead. Holy texts were beautified in many ways using gold leaf, a range of inks and various metals. All elements of this artistic process are represented in the artwork of this exhibition.

Consisting of 32 pieces crafted by three award-winning calligraphers, these original masterpieces present modern works inspired by the classical calligraphic tradition. Featuring works by Joumana Medlej, Michel D’Anastasio and Maaida Noor, all of whom joined us for the exhibition launch event on 12 June 2022. Scans of the originals now decorate the walls of the Institute.

To visit the exhibition, contact: enquiries@woolf.cam.ac.uk
30 September – 1 October 2022

Conversations: Searching for the Sacred in South Asia

The aim of this 2-day postgraduate symposium on religion in South Asia is to foster inter-disciplinary conversations and collaborations on the theme of religious expression in the subcontinent, and to explore how devotional sensibilities and cultural heritages are diversely and dynamically intertwined. The symposium seeks to explore, across multiple South Asian landscapes, the interstices of antagonism and domains of hospitality that exist within and between religious traditions; indeed, many of the talks are shaped by inter-religious themes, across the socio-political milieus of Hindus, Buddhists, Muslims, Sikhs and Christians in Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. Papers will explore these motifs of ‘antagonism’ and ‘hospitality’ from the manifold disciplinary vantage points of anthropology, theology, philosophy and history. This symposium is being generously supported by Cambridge’s Faculty of Divinity, Oxford’s Faculty of Theology & Religion and the Woolf Institute.

Contact southasiasymposium2022@gmail.com
11 October 2022, 6pm

**Qur’an and Bible Reading Group**

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.

In the opening session of this year, we will be joined by Prof. Gabriel Reynolds who will talk on *Faith and Family in the Qur’an: The Cases of Noah, Abraham and Moses.*

6 December, 6pm

**Prof. Abdulla Galadari, On Afterlife**

8 February, 5pm

**Prof. Philip Wood, The Qur’an’s reception of the Torah through Christian source**

*Please see the website and newsletter for March, May and June sessions.*

Contact Dr Esther-Miriam Wagner: emw36@cam.ac.uk

**13-15 October 2022**

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

Organised by PhD Scholar Dunya Habash in the final year of her studies, this workshop brings an interdisciplinary and inter-professional focus to the study of Syrian culture in exile and those displaced beyond its borders, providing a pathway for interdisciplinary dialogue between forced migration studies and the study of aesthetics and cultural phenomena. It sets out to examine how displaced Syrian musicians, artists, writers and other cultural advocates have negotiated the local, national and international refugee regime, new cultural and performance practices in host countries, and to examine their various strategies for reclaiming a creative voice despite undergoing trauma, separation and loss. The workshop will also consider how practitioners in NGOs and cultural organisations situate themselves in relation to displaced Syrian artists and audiences.

Contact Dunya Habash: dh599@cam.ac.uk
Michaelmas 2022

18 October 2022, 5pm
Mobility, Belonging and Community in the Mediterranean City (Barcelona, Venice and Constantinople 1400-1550)
Part of the Medieval Mediterranean webinar series

Together with our partners at the Society for the Medieval Mediterranean, supported by CSIC IMF, University of Munich, the Medieval Studies Research Group at the University of Lincoln, Leicester Medieval Research Centre and Ghent University, we are organising a monthly webinar series which attracts large crowds of interested historians from around the world. The webinars focus on medieval history of the religiously diverse societies around the medieval Mediterranean.

Please see the website and the newsletter for more dates in this monthly series.

Contact Flora Moffie: fm547@cam.ac.uk

19 October 2022, 17.00-18.00
Book launch: The Islamic Movement in Israel by Tilde Rosmer

Tilde Rosmer’s research on collective identity formation and religious-political movements with a particular focus on Israel-Palestine is published in peer-reviewed journals such as the British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies, Journal of Palestine Studies, Die Welt des Islams, Journal of Islamic Studies and Cultural Dynamics. Her book, The Islamic Movement in Israel, has been published by University of Texas Press in 2022. Currently, her research in the emerging field of Environmental Humanities focuses on awareness and knowledge of sustainability among Emirati youth. The event will be chaired by Dr Ed Kessler.

Contact Flora Moffie: fm547@cam.ac.uk
Woolf Institute Conference & Annual Research Afternoon

FAITH, TRUST & RELATIONSHIPS CONFERENCE
15 - 16 November 2022
A two-day academic conference at the Woolf Institute in Cambridge hosted by Dr Julian Hargreaves, Director of Research

WOOLF INSTITUTE RESEARCH AFTERNOON
16 November 2022, afternoon
Research showcase event hosted by Dr Esther-Miriam Wagner, Executive Director
17 November 2022, 10.00-15.30
Living in Harmony Teachers’ Seminar
As a part of the Living in Harmony project, which explored medieval and modern interactions between Muslim, Jewish and Christian neighbours in the Middle East through music, Religious Education teachers from around the UK have been invited to a day-long seminar at the Institute to learn about cultural and historical Muslim-Jewish relations through academic lectures, breakout sessions and group discussion. Participants will obtain unique Woolf Institute lesson plans along with cultural and educational knowledge on interfaith studies, have a safe space for questions and dialogue with experts in the field and discover useful resources to use in the classroom. This event is generously funded by the KC Shasha Charitable Foundation and Dangoor Education.

Contact the Living in Harmony Team: livinginharmony@woolf.cam.ac.uk

23 November 2022, 18.00-19.00
Interfaith Mixer
Undergraduate and graduate students are invited for a social mixer to get to know the different faith societies in Cambridge and learn about the Woolf Institute mission and available facilities. The evening will focus on life on campus as a student of faith; the opportunities, advantages and challenges which may arise.

Contact Flora Moffie fm547@cam.ac.uk

1 December 2022, 16.00-17.30
William Kessler Essay Prize Award Ceremony
The shortlisted candidates will give short presentations on their essays and the winner will be announced. The William Kessler Essay Prize is supported by the Kessler family.

See page 44 for details of the competition.
London Research Evening
Seldom, if ever, have the questions of religious response to climate change, Syrian refugee musicians in Turkey, Muslim and Jewish women’s interfaith interactions in Britain, the American Jewish involvement in Israeli politics and Judaeo-Arabic medical manuscripts in Armenia been discussed in the same evening, in the same room. But this is what you will find at the London Research Evening where a group of PhD scholars from the Woolf present their work to an invited audience of patrons, trustees, supporters and friends. Our patron, Lord Harry Woolf and his wife Lady Woolf are always enthusiastic attenders as are many of those who have worked with the Institute over the years, whether as trustees, patrons or donors. Their keen interest in the current research topics is hugely important to our students.

The short presentations will summarise the salient points of the work, highlighting the academic challenges the student faces and give context to questions many of which will broaden our knowledge and challenge our thinking. The presentations are followed by a reception and dinner where the conversation will continue as the evening unwraps and no doubt many insights and connections will be made. It is an evening greatly prized by all who attend and a highlight of our academic year.

Contact Flora Moffie: fm547@cam.ac.uk

30 March 2023, 19.00-21.00
Iftar
Iftar meals have been a great opportunity for people to meet at the Woolf Institute. The Institute will host a lavish Halal meal with our Muslim colleagues and students. We invite you to break the fast in celebration of the holy month of Ramadan.

Contact Flora Moffie: fm547@cam.ac.uk
6 June 2023, 14.00-16.00

**Woolf Institute Garden Party**

The Woolf Institute is delighted to invite our Friends & Supporters to the annual garden party which will take place on Tuesday 6 June 2023.

This event is open to members of the Friends of the Woolf and by invitation. Join the Friends to become part of these special events, see page 52 for details.

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**22-23 June 2023**

**Religious Imaginations of Political Belonging: Counterculturalism in Islam and Christianity**

In June 2023, the Woolf Institute is hosting and co-sponsoring this gathering, also funded by the DAAD Cambridge Hub. In a workshop format, scholars from philosophy, theology, politics, law, sociology and anthropology will explore the place of religious (and ethnic) imaginaries of counterculture within contemporary democracies.

Convened by Marietta van der Tol and Hossein Dabbagh of Oxford University and Elizabeth Phillips of the Woolf Institute, the workshop will consider questions such as: What is the significance of countercultural imaginations among Muslim and Christian groups? Do such discourses arise from feelings and experiences of political exclusion? Do they arise from critiques of liberal values and norms, or as resistance to post-/colonialism and oppression/marginalisation? What is the relationship between counterculturalism and radical ideas, openness to the far-right and potentially the willingness to engage in violence? Can counterculturalisms be understood as confident affirmations of otherness within political communities, thus adding constructively to the formation of self-understanding in plural societies? How can liberal democracies accommodate countercultures and recognise religious minorities’ rights to include them in society? And what is the significance of countercultural theologies and rhetoric in groups which are part of the religious majority?

**Contact Dr Elizabeth Phillips:**

erp31@cam.ac.uk
“The Woolf Institute’s Summer School brought out the best in its students. Each lecture was excellent. That much I expected. From start to finish, however, everyone involved was also gracious, welcoming and generous with their valuable time and extensive expertise.”

Meredith Mollohan (Summer School participant)

From taught sessions to cultural activities, the Summer School participants enjoyed Cambridge to its fullest!
Measures of Success

www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/research/projects/toolkit

The How to Measure Success toolkit and associated resources were launched on the Woolf Institute’s website in November 2021 to coincide with Interfaith Week.

These resources include an evaluation toolkit which includes a repository providing a theoretical background to development of the evaluation framework, the theoretical justifications for the indicators chosen and the empirical research pertaining to the main themes and concerns of the toolkit.

The main aim of the Measures of Success project was to develop a set of indicators that measure the impact of direct and grassroots interreligious dialogue initiatives. Given the growing recognition of interfaith dialogue as a vital feature of both local and global conflict resolution repertoires, establishing indicators and methodologies for determining what is effective is of paramount importance. The Measures of Success: Evaluating the Impact of Interfaith Dialogue project aimed to address this. Through applied research, the project developed a theoretical framework that informed the creation of a set of indicators that measure the effectiveness of interfaith dialogue initiatives. This framework and associated indicators will be of use to researchers, academics, policymakers and practitioners of interfaith dialogue at both the local and grassroots level.

The launch of the toolkit was accompanied by several outreach events and media activity including a webinar addressing issues of effectiveness and measurement in interfaith, a ‘Naked Reflections’ podcast discussing the interfaith movement and a piece in The Conversation (November, 2021). During Interfaith Week, Dr Katherine O’Lone appeared on the BBC’s Sunday Morning Live programme to discuss the launch of the toolkit. She was also interviewed by BBC London’s Inspirit radio show during Interfaith Week to discuss interfaith in London (particularly in Newham) and the challenges posed to faith groups by COVID.
The Community Security Trust and the Antisemitism Policy Trust, two well-known organisations serving British Jewish communities, commissioned the Woolf Institute to undertake a study of antisemitism online. The aim was to contribute towards parliamentary debates on the role of social media in spreading online forms of prejudice. Our work together coincided with the progression through Parliament of the Online Safety Bill, the UK Government’s attempt to increase safety for internet users while defending free expression.

Using a combination of market research services, social media analytical tools and adapted social science methods, Dr Julian Hargreaves and Richard Payne undertook the world’s first large-scale study of antisemitism online and produced three reports in 2021; one each on antisemitism across Google, Instagram and Twitter.

Our analysis revealed that Google’s ‘safe search’ functions do little to filter out explicitly antisemitic content for users or web developers. On Instagram, we discovered a murky world of conspiracy theories and internet trolling, and the supply of antisemitic content via the use of hashtags.

Using millions of posts from Twitter users, we estimated that there are around 500,000 explicitly antisemitic tweets per year made viewable for UK users. That’s two highly offensive antisemitic tweets per year for every Jewish person in the UK.

Our work was reported in The Times, The Spectator and on various news platforms around the world, including Israel. It was featured on BBC Radio 4’s Sunday programme with Edward Stourton who interviewed Julian about his analysis.

Key findings from the Twitter report were repeated in a debate in the House of Commons and are now recorded for posterity in Hansard.

Supported by CST and ATP.
The Woolf Institute collected nationally-representative survey data to study the impact of COVID-19 on British Jewish and British Muslim communities.

Our survey asked questions concerning testing, symptoms, self-isolation and vaccination. Is the willingness to self-isolate and receive a vaccine higher or lower in Jewish and Muslim communities, and how do they compare to the general population?

We asked questions about levels of trust in various sources of public health information: from family, friends and local religious leaders, to news and social media, to the NHS and local authorities. Are faith communities less likely to ignore official public health messaging and more likely to follow guidance from a local rabbi or imam?

We heard media stories about rule-breaking during the pandemic within both Jewish and Muslim communities. To what extent does statistical evidence support or challenge these accounts? Our survey included questions concerning adherence to COVID-19 rules and restrictions. We found that Muslim communities were no more likely to break lockdown than the general population. Whilst we found slightly more rule-breaking among Jewish communities, we observed that the vast majority followed all or most rules.

The data analysis provided a warning against stereotypes about faith communities listening only to local religious leaders at the expense of more official public health messaging. Both Jewish and Muslim communities were more likely to have high levels of trust in the UK Government as a source of COVID-19 information than in their local religious leader – a reminder that people of faith are citizens too.

Given our study aimed at pushing back against some of the negative media accounts of faith communities during the pandemic, we were delighted to share our findings across the BBC’s network of local radio stations and, hopefully, to help dispel a few local myths. Publication of the study led to an invitation to present findings to colleagues at the National Institute for Clinical Excellence and Healthwatch – two leading public health bodies leading efforts to communicate health advice more effectively to the UK’s minority communities.

Supported by the Laing Family Foundation, the Randeree Charitable Trust and the Spalding Trust.
In May 2022, the Woolf Institute received the Fourth Doha Global Award for Interfaith Dialogue at the 14th Doha Conference on Interfaith Dialogue hosted by the Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue (DICID).

Dr Ed Kessler received the award on behalf of the Institute from DICID Chairman, Dr Ibrahim bin-Saleh al-Naimi and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, H.E. Sultan bin Saad Al Muraikhi (see photo). The Woolf Institute was nominated by, among others, the former Archbishop of Canterbury Rev Dr Rowan Williams and Dr Tim Winter, Shaykh Zayed Lecturer in Islamic Studies at the University of Cambridge. The citation commended the Institute for its ‘outstanding contributions’ to interfaith dialogue over the last 20 years.

Ed, who also gave a lecture at the conference on ‘Radical Religious Discourse and the Spreading of Hate-Speech’ emphasised that religious hate speech can only be overcome in the long term by interfaith dialogue, which influences society in a more enduring way than power.

“Whilst power departs, the influence of dialogue remains. Dialogue practitioners and teachers are like those who light one candle with another. Sharing their influence does not mean they have less; we all have more. Education is like that flame of the candle which lights another candle. The first is not diminished. There is now, simply, more light.”

Ed stated that men and women of faith should acknowledge that religiously motivated hatred causes great damage but each religion also possesses attributes to overcome hatred and can contribute to a more vibrant and flourishing society, most significantly through genuine dialogue.
Peter Gilbert Prize

Established in 2022, the Peter Gilbert Prize is jointly awarded by the Woolf Institute and Jewish Renaissance for the best article from the previous two years of Jewish Renaissance issues. The winning article should engage the contribution of the Jewish creative spirit to the intellectual and artistic life of the twentieth century through to the present day and, as such, Jewish Renaissance is a perfect partner and resource in overseeing the prize, sharing as it does the same central aspiration. The remit is deliberately broad, spanning the written word and performative arts, dramatic to comedic, in any part of the world.

The late Peter Gilbert – or ‘Bertie’ as he was known – was the much loved uncle of Adam Glisman, a long-time friend and supporter of the Woolf Institute. Adam comments

“Peter was an old school, self-styled North London Jewish intellectual with one semi-autobiographical novel to his name, Laughter in a Dark Wood, described by Eva Hoffman as a ‘rueful comedy of Anglo-Jewish manners’. A contributor to The Jewish Quarterly, teacher of creative writing and passionate about 20th century Jewish literature especially Primo Levi, he was a characterful and urbane man who inspired affection, curiosity and conversation amongst his family and friends.”

The Prize honours Peter’s memory, and the inaugural prize was awarded to Shalom Auslander for his article ‘The day Kafka killed his iPhone’ (January 2021).

Download the article here: www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/research/publications/peter-gilbert-prize

Jewish Renaissance 20th anniversary event. Photo: Rob Greig
Beth Phillips joined the Woolf Institute in April 2022. She is a Christian theologian who lectures and publishes in the areas of moral and political theology. Drawing on her experience in interfaith encounter together with her academic, administrative and social engagement, her role includes oversight and strategic development of the Institute’s public education and outreach work.

“As the Woolf Institute’s first Public Engagement Fellow, my aims are to broaden and amplify the Institute’s ability to do our important, outward-facing work: to share the expertise and findings of our researchers in ways that they are accessible and useful to the people who need them, including faith communities, schools, professionals, practitioners and policymakers; and to cultivate encounter between people of different faiths, and between faith communities and other groups in society. Both aspects of our public engagement – dissemination of research and cultivation of encounter – aim to build trust between communities and trust in the Woolf as a source of expertise, wisdom and good practice in interfaith study and relations.”

Dr Phillips’s forthcoming new book brings together a selection of her scholarly essays on Christian eschatology, ethics, and politics alongside a selection of her sermons on the same themes preached in the college chapels of the University of Cambridge.
Diversity in End of Life Care
www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/outreach/healthcare

During the past year, Dr Katherine O’Lone (Research Fellow), Dr Emma Harris (Director of Studies) and Ruwaida Randeree (Affiliated Tutor) have been delivering an online training session for healthcare practitioners. Following on from a series of Woolf Institute research projects and publications [Bridging the Gap: Strengthening Relations between Hospices and Muslims of Britain (2015), Advance Care Planning and Muslim Communities (2016), and Diversity in End of Life Care: A Handbook on Caring for Jewish, Christian and Muslim Patients (2019)], and made possible by generous funding from The James Tudor Foundation, these sessions draw on Katherine’s interviews with hospital chaplains, palliative care staff and community leaders across the UK during the height of the COVID pandemic. The training has been delivered to healthcare professionals (including consultants in Palliative Medicine, doctors, nurses, nursing assistants, Last Aid facilitators and others), Education Leads (such as Community Development Managers), Chaplains and volunteers, and has provided a forum for them to reflect on their experience, practice, and what has been learned about caring for religious people and their families at the end of life.

In the coming year, Dr Elizabeth Phillips will lead the team in continuing to provide this training, launching the revised version of the Handbook (which incorporates Dr O’Lone’s new findings) and collaborating with end of life care practitioners to plan the next phase of the project including training days at the Institute for local and regional practitioners and continued online training for those in other locations.

“Thank you so much for the excellent, thought-provoking workshop. It was very well-received by staff who attended . . .”

Diversity in End of Life Care training participant.

If you would like to receive more information on training for your hospice, hospital or care home, email diversityinendoflifecare@woolf.cam.ac.uk

Supported in 2021-22 by The James Tudor Foundation.
The Living in Harmony project began as one of the Woolf Institute’s research projects, exploring medieval and modern interactions between Muslim, Jewish and Christian neighbours in the Middle East through music. Generously funded by the KC Shasha Charitable Foundation and Dangoor Education, the investigation centred on two cities: Aleppo in Syria and Baghdad in Iraq. Chosen because of their historic cosmopolitanism, these two cities boast centuries of cultural integration and interaction among their Jewish, Christian and Muslim communities, fostering a shared local culture. The project discovered that the relationships between these communities were positive as seen through shared melodies, concerts and prayer chants, showing that religious and secular music can provide a common ground for people from various faiths and traditions.

In the last two years, the second phase of the project saw Woolf Institute PhD Scholars Dunya Habash and Alissa Symon create and deliver a dynamic outreach programme based on research from the project to teach students across England about faith communities and coexistence through music. Thus far, they have conducted workshops at ten secondary schools across Cambridgeshire and London, and will have reached over 3,000 students by the end of 2022. These fun and engaging workshops provide students with a unique experience of Middle Eastern music, religion and history.

In the coming year, these workshops will continue, as well as training for teachers who are interested in expanding their knowledge of interfaith relations and acquiring new tools and lesson plans for the classroom through the Living in Harmony Teachers’ Seminar in November 2022 (see page 12 for further details). Dr Elizabeth Phillips, the Institute’s new Public Engagement Fellow, will lead in planning for the next phase of continuing this important project.

If you would like to receive more information on training for your school: livinginharmONY@woolf.cam.ac.uk

Supported by Dangoor Education and K C Shasha Foundation.
Policy Workshop

For the last five years, the Woolf Institute has fostered close working relations with the University of Cambridge’s Centre for Science and Policy (CSaP), an initiative to increase contact and learning between public policy professionals and academics. Over the years, we have welcomed civil servants from across the UK Government as they spend time in Cambridge seeking fresh ideas and new perspectives.

Recently, CSaP joined a network of partner universities working together to improve capabilities in academic policy engagement. Known as CAPE, the programme’s organisers support new research and chose the Woolf Diversity Study (see page 25) as one of its supported projects.

Colleagues from CAPE and CSaP organised two roundtable discussion events, one hosted by the British Academy in their London headquarters and a second in Manchester hosted by the University of Manchester. The roundtable events gathered senior policymakers, leading academics and various experts working across the think tank and charity sectors. Working with the British Academy has resulted in a burgeoning relationship and opportunities to join their staff and network as work continues across their Cohesive Societies programme.

Above: Claire Mathys (Policy Impact), Consultant for the Woolf Diversity Study, outside No. 10
I joined the Woolf Institute in 2017 having spent two years at the University of Cambridge’s Centre of Islamic Studies, four years studying a Master’s degree and PhD at Lancaster University and a decade in the British music industry. Back then, I was immediately attracted to the Institute’s unique blend of first-rate academic research and practical work with faith communities. I understood Dr Ed Kessler’s vision for an institute that improves interfaith dialogue between the Abrahamic faith traditions and gazed in awe at the architectural plans for what is now our remarkable home in Cambridge.

Now under the leadership of our Executive Director, Dr Esther-Miriam Wagner, and with a newly revised strategy in place, the Institute continues to realise our Founder’s dreams while strengthening our reach and impact. Research is still at the heart of everything we do. One of our main priorities is to deliver completed projects that drive our public education, teaching, outreach and policy work.

As for my own research, the recently relaunched Woolf Diversity Study will undertake another large-scale survey of England and Wales in partnership again with Survation. This year’s theme is belonging and our survey will measure the strength of local social connections, including those within and between local faith communities. Taking our cue from the UK Government’s Levelling Up agenda, the survey will develop our theme of belonging by studying people’s engagement with local groups and organisations, and their level of satisfaction with their physical surroundings and public services. What do minority faith communities care about locally? And what do they want for their local neighbourhoods? Our new data will help us find out.
Local communities are back! The COVID-19 pandemic, whilst being truly awful for most, offered a reminder that, in times of great hardship, local communities are capable of coming together and mobilising goodwill.

Recognising this, but also the many economic inequalities faced by communities in less advantaged parts of the United Kingdom, the Government launched its Levelling Up strategy. With a renewed interest in all things local (local economies, local pride and so on), there remains a question around how the Government’s work will impact upon minority faith communities. What do minority faith communities care about locally? And what do they want for their local neighbourhoods?

This year, and to address these questions, the Woolf Institute relaunches its Diversity Study of England and Wales (now known as the Woolf Diversity Study) after first publishing findings from the UK’s largest ever study of ethnic, national and religious diversity back in 2020.

To complement work across the public, think tank and charity sectors, while remaining independent, non-partisan and academically rigorous, this year’s Woolf Diversity Study will focus on the theme of belonging. To what extent can we say minority faith communities belong to their local neighbourhoods? To explore this question, we have identified three components of local belonging: social connections, civic engagement and local priorities. New data will help us build a picture of belonging as it plays out in local patterns of trust, participation in groups and activities and in levels of satisfaction with people’s surroundings and local authorities.

As in our previous study, and to provide valuable context for our current work, we will track public attitudes towards ethnic, national and religious diversity. Have positive attitudes towards diversity across Britain and within local communities increased or decreased in the last two years? A new nationwide survey conducted again in partnership with market research and polling agency Survation will provide the fresh data needed to understand belonging as it is perceived and experienced by minority communities.

Taking the benefit of expert guidance from policy consultant Claire Mathys, we have engaged in insightful conversations across Westminster, from parliamentarians to policymakers, throughout local government and across the charity sector. And even through the famous black door of No.10 Downing Street. Our preparation work has shaped our research design and established an audience for data, the publication of our report (with its working title, Here Together) and follow-up essays and briefings that will be made available across late 2022 and early 2023.

Supported by the Kessler family.
Forgiveness and Future-Building
www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/research/projects/forgiveness-and-future-building

Forgiveness and Future-building is a new two-year project led by Woolf Institute Research Fellow, Dr Katherine O’Lone. The project will explore cultural and religious variation in ideas surrounding forgiveness and how these impact post-conflict societies, particularly surrounding issues such as legacy and identity. The project will focus on three societies that are classed as ‘post-conflict’: Northern Ireland, Bosnia and South Sudan.

Working on the project alongside Dr O’Lone are Dr Justin E. Lane (Founder and CEO, CulturePulse) and Prof. F. LeRon Shults (University of Agder, Norway). Building on their previous work in AI and modelling social stability, Dr Lane and Prof. Shults will be developing a multi-agent AI system designed for studying the escalation and de-escalation of inter-group conflict, particularly where complex religious and ethnic identities are involved. This AI system will allow policymakers to experiment on different policy outcomes before they are implemented in the real world.

The research team have, so far, travelled extensively to Northern Ireland to conduct fieldwork with policymakers, peacebuilders and ex-combatants and political prisoners. Supported by an anonymous foundation.
Since January 2022, Woolf Institute trustees have been consulting with asylum seekers, refugees, third-sector workers, lawyers, clinicians, economists, academics, faith leaders and policymakers across the political spectrum. There has been a broad welcome for the creation of a Commission, convened by the Woolf Institute, which will run for 18 months from autumn 2022. It will undertake a holistic review and seek to facilitate integration by:

- improving both the refugee experience and the public experience of refugees;
- offering practical, human-rights led and economically-costed long term solutions.

In order to achieve these goals, the Commission will undertake three workstreams, each of which has a Policy Lab component, which will ensure that implications for policymaking are kept in mind and that policymakers work collectively to co-design and deliver a new asylum process:

- Developing a human-rights led blueprint for the asylum process: what would an ideal asylum process look like and what is actually achievable?
- Local Engagement: how do local communities engage with the refugee process, including local government; faith communities; community sponsorship programmes and identification of models of good (and bad) practice.
- Economic modelling: costing and developing economic models to evaluate the financial impact of the current asylum process and existing practice and of the new system proposed.
Mental Health
www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/research/projects/mental-health-project

This is two-year blended research and public education project to study mental health from an interfaith perspective with a twin focus on the development of public educational materials on faith, interfaith and mental health; and the study of policy-related issues concerning mental health and British Muslim communities.

The project has three phases. The team will begin with a review of existing academic and non-academic literature on mental health and faith communities which will provide the means to compare mental health experiences from Christian, Jewish and Muslim communities, and the wisdom derived from religious belief and practice within the Abrahamic traditions. Building on the interfaith literature review, a series of interviews and focus groups will be conducted. Key findings and recommendations will be published to feed into policymaking in the UK and will address two vital aspects:

a. Issues facing Muslims in Britain from within their own communities;
b. Issues facing Muslims in Britain when accessing mental health services.

And finally there will be a programme of public education on faith, interfaith and mental health targeting faith communities (with a focus on Christian, Jewish and Muslim communities). Returning to the theme of community-driven wisdom, the programme will seek to educate people from Abrahamic faith backgrounds, and those of all other faiths and none, on the approaches to mental health found within Christian, Judaic and Islamic traditions. Moreover, this curriculum will provide much needed materials for the training of mental health professionals on helping individuals from faith backgrounds.

Supported by Dangoor Education and Randeree Charitable Trust.
One of the most painful and unresolved conflicts of modern times has centred on the holy places in Jerusalem. Dr Ed Kessler has joined with Lord John Alderdice, who has decades’ experience of conflict resolution and with Imam Monawar Hussain MBE, UK Muslim community leader and interfaith activist. Their goal is to convene conversations and facilitate encounters to explore ways in which it may be possible to sustain, safeguard and respect Jerusalem’s Holy Places.

Religious sites in Jerusalem, especially the al-Haram al-Sharif compound (which houses the Al Aqsa Mosque and known to Jews as the Temple Mount) are flash points for conflict. As evidenced by the fighting during Passover and Ramadan in 2022, religious festivals easily escalate tensions, epitomise an asymmetry of power and can trigger violence. Local Christian communities also feel under increasing pressure and there is no quicker path to a major conflagration than arguments about holy sites.

Jerusalem’s Holy Places seeks to understand what Jerusalem’s Abrahamic communities expect from each other. In listening, learning and articulating the strands, it is also hoped that faith communities in the UK (and elsewhere) can learn more about Jerusalem’s Holy Places and how dialogue may be fostered, and the risk of further conflict reduced.
The way a person looks often sets particular expectations about the way they will speak. Great surprise may arise when a woman in a hijab starts talking in a southern Alabama drawl, if a Sikh speaks in a variation of London cockney or an ultra-orthodox Jewish man responds in received pronunciation. Many stereotypes and preconceptions rest on the way people express themselves, for example how eloquent they are, whether they are native speakers without a discernible foreign accent, or speak a linguistic register of perceived high or low standard.

For example, in my opinion, the fact that now second and third generation immigrant populations have grown up to speak English as native speakers has brought about big changes in public attitude as to the belonging and inclusion in the British nation of these communities.

In my studies, I am particularly interested how language is used by individuals to show belonging to a particular group and how people use language to delineate between communities. My work focuses on the sociolinguistics of Judaeo-Arabic, which is Jewish Arabic written in Hebrew script, but I also work on Christian Arabic text and on comparisons between Jewish, Christian and Muslim forms of the Arabic language.

In addition to these sociolinguistic studies, I work with manuscripts, mainly letters written by merchants, and I translate this work into producing editions of texts to enable historians and economists to study past relations between the religious communities.
The Qur’an and Bible project explores the relationship between the two scriptures, and their similarities and differences, with a particular focus on problematic passages. Muslim and Jewish scriptures are studied alongside one another, bringing in classical rabbinic interpretations and the Hadith and Tafsir. The project offers recommendations to interpret and discuss the texts (including hostile passages), in ways that further understanding between and among the Jewish and Muslim communities, foster dialogue and overcome prejudice and bias.

We have been holding reading groups on the topic for two years now in which eminent academics and students from universities in the USA, Germany, the Emirates, Qatar and the UK gathered regularly to discuss aspects of the relationship between the Torah and the Qur’an.

Core results of the discussion note that the Qur’an and Bible are deeply connected, that the Qur’an does not refute anything fundamental contained in the Torah, and the Qur’an comments on both Jewish and Christian commentaries of the Bible. And most importantly that the Qur’an does not require perpetual animosity between Islam and the followers of Judaism and that it is not antisemitic.
In this project, Dr Danielle Padley questions how Jewish communities in nineteenth-century England participated in Victorian musical life, and the impact of being Jewish upon this participation. The project incorporates research into professional and amateur musical activities of both a sacred and secular nature, with discussions including Jewish performers on the operatic and concert stage, the establishment of Jewish choral societies and other music groups, the influence of music education in schools, and routes to professional training.

In line with other recent Jewish cultural histories, this project notably sheds light on the everyday lives of Jewish women and of the working classes, previously underplayed in studies of the Victorian Anglo-Jewish world. It also aims to introduce more nuanced ideas of the interactions between Jewish and non-Jewish communities in nineteenth-century England to more mainstream British musicological studies.

The project requires the study of archival material from a wide variety of sources, including the Victorian Jewish press, musical journals and periodicals, school and college records and reports, concert reviews and programmes, genealogy documents, musical scores, and synagogue records. Danielle hopes to present her research through both written and oral media, reflecting the project’s theme of people, communities, and their music.

Supported by an anonymous private donor.

The *Documentary History* is the first single collection of primary documents offering a chronological and thematic approach to the history of Jewish-Christian relations worldwide.

It will include 200 documents central to Jewish-Christian relations, each accompanied by a commentary of 400-500 words outlining its significance.

Their hope is that, through the use of carefully chosen primary sources, the book will take the reader on a documentary journey through a mutually entangled and often difficult history and will contribute to a better understanding between Jews and Christians as well as provide a starting point for further research. The book is due to be published in early 2024.

There will be contributions from Dr Ed Kessler, Dr Matthew Novenson, Dr James Carleton Paget, Prof. Philip Alexander, Rabbi Prof. Marc Saperstein, Dr Paul Kerry, Dr Victoria Barnett, Prof. Karma ben Yohanan and Prof. Mary Boys.

Supported by The British Academy, The Headley Trust and the Kessler family.
The Woolf Institute is now welcoming applications and expressions of interest for one of its Visiting Fellowships. Our Fellowships are available for one, two or three terms of the academic year 2022/23.

Successful candidates will be expected to be engaged in a project of academic research, public education or policy-related work in an area relevant to the Institute's activities.

Supported by Sultan Azlan Shah Foundation
Our PhD Scholars
In collaboration with the Cambridge Trust, we support PhD Scholars through the Woolf Institute Cambridge Scholarship.

Mohammed Ahmed
Dunya Habash
Peach Hoyle
Hope McGovern
Alissa Symon

Our Honorary PhD Scholars
Woolf Institute Honorary PhD Scholars are awarded to outstanding PhD Scholars at the University of Cambridge whose research matches the focus of the Woolf Institute. These Scholars – known as Ian Karten Scholars – are either self-funded or have been awarded a fully-funded scholarship.

Aliya Ali
Madeleine Ary Hahne
Ani Avetisyan
Hina Khalid

We acknowledge with thanks our donors – Humanitarian Trust, Ian Karten Charitable Trust and Spalding Trust – who have allowed us to provide these Scholars with academic and career support and to include them as valued members of our community.
Mohammed Ahmed, PhD Scholar
Asian & Middle Eastern Studies, St Edmund’s

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic:</th>
<th>The literary role of Jews within Qur’anic exegesis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Period &amp; Location:</td>
<td>7th-14th centuries; The Islamic world, mainly Baghdad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Languages:</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Interfaith implications: This research is part of the wider discourse on how Islamic texts developed their attitudes towards the religious other – in particular, towards Jews. This is significant because in the early Islamic period, there were few differences between Muslims and Jews, and after political conflicts in Medina, Islamic texts started to negatively present the Muslim-Jewish relationship. Mohammed’s thesis explores how these developing attitudes occurred in Qur’anic commentaries, and explore how Muslim-Jewish attitudes change over time.

Aliya Ali, Honorary PhD Scholar
Asian & Middle Eastern Studies, Clare

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic:</th>
<th>Networks of Power in Early Islamic Governance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Period &amp; Location:</td>
<td>644-66; Medina and its surrounding regions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Languages:</td>
<td>Arabic and Persian</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Interfaith implications: This research collects qualitative data on individuals who were assigned important political roles under Uthman and Ali’s caliphate. The data gathered so far shows that there were marriages and relations between the early Muslim governors and their non-Muslim population which subsequently led to some offspring. These familial alliances illustrate that the early conquerors made an active effort to engage with subjugated population. This early communication between Muslims and non-Muslims shows the political and social necessity to work between faiths and create dialogue.
Madeleine Ary Hahne, Honorary PhD Scholar
Geography, Pembroke

Topic: Religion and Climate Change
Period & Location: Contemporary; US, Samoa and London
Languages: English
Articles:

Interfaith implications: This research is about understanding how religious people conceptualise and respond to climate change from theological, moral and cultural standpoints. Though focused on one religion, this work has implications for all faiths grappling with theologising climate change and responding according to their values. The research particularly focuses on conservative, Christian faiths.

Ani Avetisyan, Honorary PhD Scholar
Asian and Middle Asian Studies, St. John’s

Topic: Early Modern Judaeo-Arabic Medical Manuscripts of Matenadaran Collection
Period & Location: 18th century; Ottoman
Languages: Judaeo-Arabic, Garshuni, Arabic, Hebrew

Interfaith implications: The goal of this research is to examine unpublished and untapped collection of Early Modern Judaeo-Arabic medical manuscripts of Matenadaran. This work enabled me to include Garshuni, the Arabic language written in Syriac characters, to my language repertoire, allowing me to compare Garshuni text with Jewish and Muslim texts and study the linguistic links between the three Abrahamic traditions. Through the discovered material, it is hoped that we will gain more insight into the connections between different religious groups in the Middle East during the period spanning the tenth to nineteenth centuries.
Interfaith implications: This research explores the musical manifestations of forced migration with a specific focus on Syrian musicians and artists in Turkey. In light of the contemporary Syrian refugee crisis, the thesis offers a timely combination of approaches in ethnomusicology and forced migration studies to investigate how Syrian musicians as agents embed themselves in their new homelands where changes in performance practice, physical space and cultural norms must be accounted for. The research seeks to elucidate the social and artistic challenges Syrian musicians face in their efforts to adapt to their new host context and survive economically, to explore how they experience marginality and multiculturalism in Turkey, and finally, to extrapolate from their experience an analysis of the Syrian community’s current social and cultural profile while displaced in Turkey. At the centre of this study lie the following key research questions: How do Syrian musicians respond to their changing social and historical circumstances? How do they use their craft to create a voice for themselves in Turkey? Are there structural and political forces that support or impede this expression? Who is their audience in exile? Although not a direct study of interfaith relations, exploring the experience of marginality, multiculturalism and artistic expression in the context of migration can lead to a better understanding of interfaith encounters. After all, interfaith encounters often spring from historical and contemporary forms of migration whether it is Muslims migrating to the West in the modern world or Jews leaving Spain in the 15th century.
Peach Hoyle, New PhD Scholar  
Divinity, Jesus College

Peach Hoyle will commence their PhD studies in October 2022 in the Faculty of Divinity under the supervision of Professor Esra Özyürek and Dr Daniel Weiss. Peach will be at Jesus College.

Peach’s work will employ an ethnographic approach to consider Muslim and Jewish women’s interfaith interactions in Britain, focusing on women’s responses to violence against women and girls (VAWG). The complex marginalisation of Muslim and Jewish women in the British public sphere – as women, and as members of minority religions – plays on stereotypes of religiously observant women as passive victims. This notion of passivity is dependent on secular feminist conceptualisations of agency which obscure the reality: that religiously observant women are agents with complex relationships to continuation and change. However, the British public sphere is constructed in a way that arguably curtails the discursive participation of minority-religious women. Peach intends to explore whether interfaith spaces provide particular opportunities for Muslim and Jewish women to express agency in the British public sphere – and if so, why, how and for whom?

Peach previously received a BA (Hons.) in Theology and Religious Studies from the University of Cambridge and an MSt in Religious Studies from the University of Oxford. They have been involved in a number of community and grassroots organisations, and have a practical interest in the ways that people can organise to create or resist change in policy, law and practice.
Hina Khalid, Honorary PhD Scholar  
Divinity, Trinity  

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Topic:</th>
<th>Becoming Words of Witness: The Motif of Co-Creation in Muhammad Iqbal and Rabindranath Tagore</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Period &amp; Location:</td>
<td>Late 19th &amp; mid-20th century; Indian subcontinent (pre- &amp; post-partition)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Languages:</td>
<td>English, Arabic, Persian, Urdu and Bengali</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Interfaith implications:** This research project establishes a comparative dialogue between two influential philosopher-poets of the Indian subcontinent and builds on my academic training in cross-cultural theological and philosophical study. The project explores how the Islamic and the Hindu traditions have developed across the subcontinent by interacting with one another, and how these shared devotional-philosophical idioms have shaped what it means to be a South Asian Muslim and Hindu today. By focusing on the works of Tagore and Iqbal, both of whose writings represent a fertile confluence of varying conceptual-theological streams (Islamic mysticisms, Hindu philosophies, Western conceptions of modernity and so on), this research bears directly upon the possibilities of Hindu-Muslim interfaith dialogue, and I hope to draw on my findings to sketch some concrete parameters of such dialogue. This will involve reflecting on how certain creative modes of cultural expression (such as devotional poetry and song) in the Indian subcontinent have long served as sites where rigid communitarian differences are somehow suspended or transcended, as well as drawing on some shared modes of Hindu-Muslim religiosity to re-think concepts of the nation and statehood, and the articulation of religious identities in a globalised world.
Hope McGovern, PhD Scholar

Computer Laboratory, Robinson

Topic: Computational Analysis of Religious Narrative
Period & Location: Contemporary
Languages: English, Ancient Hebrew, Ancient Greek, Latin

Interfaith implications: With my research, I intend to create tools that allow scholars as well as interested individuals to explore the texts sacred to the Abrahamic faiths in quantitative ways – using machine learning to be able to examine authorship hypotheses, literary structure, borrowing and adaptation between texts. I believe making such things concrete with quantitative measures will aid interfaith conversations by providing a relatively neutral medium through which to discuss hotly debated subjects.

Right: Cover art for PertLE: a tool to linguistically probe language models for human-explainable authorship detection with machine learning

Alissa Symon, PhD Scholar

Sociology (Oxford), St Antony's

Topic: Jewish Transnationalism: American Jewish Involvement in Israeli Politics
Period & Location: 1981-2020, Israel/Palestine
Languages: Hebrew, English

Interfaith implications: This thesis investigates why and through which mechanisms American Jews intervene in Israeli politics. On the Right, neo-conservative Jewish Americans are working with Evangelical Christians and members of the Republican Party to strengthen the conservative movement in Israel and Israeli occupation of the West Bank. At the same time, American Jewish progressives are working directly with Palestinian communities to make Israel a multi-ethnic democracy and bring Israeli occupation to an end. In my research, I hope to show the clash between these two networks and illustrate how both are working tirelessly to intervene in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict by backing opposite visions of the Holy land.
MPhil Studies
Introducing new MPhil scholar, Ruby Haji Naif

In collaboration with the Cambridge Trust, we also support MPhil Scholars through the Woolf Institute Cambridge Scholarship. We acknowledge with thanks the support of the Willie and Jo Kessler Masters Studentship offering students the opportunity to undertake the MPhil in Middle Eastern Studies: Muslim-Jewish Relations at the University of Cambridge or other Masters programmes at the University of Cambridge relevant to our Woolf Institute work. We also acknowledge the support of the Shoresh Charitable Trust.

Ruby will join us in October 2022. She earned her BA in media and communication with double minor in anthropology and political science at American University of Beirut. She also worked as a researcher with several international organisations such as International Federation of Red Cross, Solferino Academy, Translator without Borders and Women Now for Development.

Ruby’s research will focus on the feminist agenda that women’s organisations – which work on Jewish-Israeli and Palestinian partnerships – articulate their services and advocacy efforts. The research aims to explore how this feminist agenda addresses inequality while promoting solidarity. Her research will combine in-depth interviews and participant observation with a feminist organisation that works on Israeli-Palestinian Partnership. The research will explore their feminist agenda based on the intersection of religion, nationality and gender.

www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/research/graduate-study/mphil
www.ames.cam.ac.uk/study-us/masters-degrees/masters-middle-eastern-studies/muslim-jewish-relations

Representations of Jewish-Christian Relations in Literature

Join this online course to engage with English Literature through the lens of interfaith studies, to understand the narrative of deep-seated prejudices and to recognise the value of dialogue to dispel these views. In the 21st-century, what can we learn from literary works to effect greater understanding between one another?

For application form and further details: www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/study/online-courses/representations-of-jewish-christian-relations-in-literature
UK undergraduate and graduate students (Masters level) are invited to submit an essay (up to 1,500 words) which broadly addresses one of the following topics:

- Interfaith Encounters on Campus and in Academia
- Secular Societies, Religious Followers; Opportunities? Challenges?
- Modern Identities - the Intersection between Race, Faith and Gender
- Lessons from the Past: How Interfaith Work can Benefit from Historical Research

Essays will be judged by the Woolf Institute's leading academic staff. The top six essay writers will be invited to present their essays in a virtual event which will take place at the beginning of December 2022. An expert panel will then vote on the winner, who will receive a prize of £250. In addition, the top three essays will be published on our website and social media platforms.

Essays should be sent as a Word or pdf document to education@woolf.cam.ac.uk

4 NOVEMBER  Competition Deadline
17 NOVEMBER  Shortlisted essays announced
1 DECEMBER  Presentation Event
The world is changing and there are growing opportunities to make a difference. We hope that our Summer School 2023 will motivate and inspire the next generation!

The Summer School aims to increase tolerance and interdependence through the design of a curriculum and a learning environment conducive to academic study and fostering understanding of the diversity of beliefs, attitudes and perspectives.

Taught in our beautiful new building in the heart of one of Europe’s most beautiful and historic destinations, students also have the opportunity to take in some of the local experiences from punting on the River Cam to visiting the Fitzwilliam Museum and attending a traditional Friday night Sabbath meal.

Led by Executive Director, Dr Esther-Miriam Wagner, Religion and Society from the Medieval to the Modern introduces students to the study of religion in society and to different aspects of the history of interfaith relations in Europe and in the Middle East. Students will explore themes such as communal identity and segregation policies, and have the chance to learn about contemporary and controversial issues such as Antisemitism and Islamophobia.

Find out more about the programme: www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/study/summer-school
Brigham Young University – Woolf Institute Internship

In 2022, the Woolf Institute and Brigham Young University established a joint internship programme for BYU undergraduate students. From their first day at the Woolf Institute, interns will work closely with their assigned supervisor and members of the team to assist with, for example, social media and marketing campaigns, website and event management, research projects, podcast production and other tasks. These internships provide opportunities to develop and enhance skills set, opening doors to new possibilities.

Ashley Davis joined the Woolf Institute as its first BYU intern from May-July 2022.

“I have absolutely loved my time at the Woolf Institute. I love the beautiful academic setting of Cambridge, learning new things and gaining new skills, coming to work and being excited to see what my day will consist of, and working for an Institute that promotes peace, cooperation, and interfaith understanding. From the first day, I was welcomed as part of the team and have felt a sense of belonging. The Woolf Institute staff are fun, kind, welcoming, encouraging and supportive. Everyone I have worked with has taught me something different and truly made my internship wonderful. At the Institute, I have been involved in podcast preparation and editing, research, database creation, event management, office administration, exhibition preparation, marketing campaigns and more. I have enjoyed being a part of so many different projects and always having something to do. Because of this, Cambridge has been a place of growth for me academically, intellectually, and socially. Wherever I end up in my future career, I know that my time at the Institute and the skills I have gained here have prepared me for success. I am grateful for the Woolf Institute for taking me in as their intern, trusting me with a number of responsibilities, and providing an environment where I could learn, grow, and flourish.”

Informal enquiries to:
Dr Emma Harris: eth22@cam.ac.uk
BYU Contact:
Alison Sondrup: alison_sondrup@byu.edu
Further information:
www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/study/byu-internship
https://experience.byu.edu/internship-opportunities
Introducing our Social Media Manager, Seherish Abrar

“As the Woolf Institute’s Social Media Manager my role is to manage our social media presence across Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn. By sharing our research, news and events, our goal is to increase our engagement with online audiences to foster interfaith dialogue and inter-religious relations. To achieve a space for discussion, we are creating a less formal tone online for followers to share their thoughts in a respectful and collaborative manner. Through content creation, analytics data and curated campaigns, we aim to build a positive online space that contributes to mutual understanding between religion and society through education.”

Social media

www.facebook.com/WoolfInstitute
www.instagram.com/woolf.institute/
twitter.com/Woolf_Institute
www.linkedin.com/company/the-woolf-institute
www.youtube.com/user/WoolfInstitute

Are you following us? Stay connected and engage with us on social media for up-to-date details on our latest research, news and events.

We’ve had a busy year on social media, celebrating festivals, national holidays and with our new seasonal series! Our Winter Series looked back on the events of the previous year.

#WOOLFspringseries celebrated the coincidence of Ramadan, Passover and Easter as we emerged from pandemic restrictions and communal religious activity returned. During the summer, we highlighted #research@WOOLF to learn more about the work of Woolf colleagues.

Here are some highlights from our year!
Podcasts
www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/podcasts

Now running for two years, our weekly podcast series, Naked Reflections, a partnership with The Naked Scientists, UK’s largest science podcast producer and maker of weekly science programmes for BBC radio, has published over 130 episodes and attracted over 50,000 downloads.

Each week, our contributors and host, Dr Ed Kessler, Founder President of the Woolf Institute, discuss topical events, science and news stories and evaluate them through the world of social science and the humanities. Entering into discussion, asking hard questions and covering topics ranging from genocide to gender, climate change and human behaviour to multiculturalism and collaborative thinking, each episode is edited down to a 27-minute podcast. Our in-house state of the art media studio enables us to hone our content to professional broadcast quality.

The podcasts form part of the Woolf Institute’s public engagement programme and help to reach non-academic audiences. By attracting high calibre guests, such as Rowan Williams, David Runciman, Sir Simon Baron-Cohen and Baroness Julia Neuberger, we have been provided with an opportunity to cross promote the podcasts to increase our reach and raise our profile.

Ties have strengthened with the University of Cambridge, forging a link with Dr Kenny Monrose and the Department of Sociology, after his appearance on the podcast discussing the ‘Black British Voices’ project.

Naked Reflections content has been used as a resource for external teaching materials by Prof. Gurch Randhawa for his MSc students in Diversity in Public Health at the University of Bedford. Gurch has appeared on several podcasts particularly discussing the protection of patents and ‘Big Pharma’.

Podcasts will play a role in our 25th Anniversary celebrations, so keep tuned in and listen out for our special series reflecting on key moments in the interfaith journey of religious leaders.

We hope you enjoy listening to Naked Reflections which you can find wherever you access your podcasts. If you have any ideas for a podcast, email our Podcast Producer, Claire Curran: cc640@cam.ac.uk.

Listen to Naked Reflections:
www.thenakedscientists.com/podcasts/naked-reflections

Check out our other podcast series:
www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/podcasts
The Woolf Institute Blog has long been a source of fascination, education and debate.

The posts range from opinion pieces and book reviews to historical analyses and descriptive travel logs, many tackling sensitive subjects rarely aired.

Even at a glance, the range of subjects covered in the Blog is remarkable. Care of the dying in hospices, diversity of faith in modern Britain, the Holocaust, issues surrounding COVID, climate change, interfaith friendship as a significant component of the civil rights movement… these are only some of the most recent blogs, written by academics, faith leaders, commentators, students and alumni. It is through our Blog that we hear other voices, see other points of view and begin to unpel the layers of prejudice and misunderstanding that so often harm our relationships with those who are not exactly like us, or whose experience is not ours.

In celebration of our 25th anniversary, we will feature some of our early blogs, include a short biography of the author and invite them, where relevant, to update the situation they wrote about years ago. We will also be commissioning a special series of commentary about the interfaith dialogue in Britain today and the impact of recent crises such as the COVID pandemic, war and the turmoil of Brexit.

Would you like to write for the Woolf Institute Blog? We want to hear from you!

Contact blog@woolf.cam.ac.uk
In the News

The Woolf Institute is enjoying greater and more sustained media attention than at any time in our 25-year history. Thanks, in no small part, to the superb efforts of our new media communications partners, Jersey Road PR, and with our new media strategy in place, we now have the tools to communicate our mission and work across national, local and specialist media. To complement and amplify our communications, we hired social media manager, Seherish Abrar, who joined us to take on a hybrid social media and research role.

Here are the monthly highlights from our recent media work with Jersey Road PR:

**August 2022** – Dr Esther-Miriam Wagner’s thought-leadership piece on Forgiveness published in The Times.

**July 2022** – Following coverage from the BBC News website (see below), PhD students Mohammed Ahmed and Dunya Habash and artist Maaida Noor are invited to appear on BBC 1’s Sunday programme to discuss the recent calligraphy exhibition, The Written Word.

**June 2022** – The Written Word exhibition is covered by the BBC News website, ITV Anglia News and local radio station Cambridge 105FM.

**May 2022** – The Institute fields a request from a senior journalist at BBC News to provide expert commentary on antisemitism and the Ukraine War. ISGAP researcher Dr Lev Topor provides background support for the BBC’s coverage.

**April 2022** – After an introduction to the Institute’s research team (staff, students and affiliates), Daisy Scalchi (BBC Commissions Editor) meets PhD student Hope McGovern to discuss in more detail her work on AI and religion for a possible television programme.

**March 2022** – Dr Julian Hargreaves appears across various BBC Radio local stations to discuss his research work on the impacts of COVID-19 and British Jewish and British Muslim communities.

**February 2022** – Dr Esther-Miriam Wagner’s thought-leadership piece on trust and achieving a healthy multi-faith society in Britain is published in The Times.

**January 2022** – Key findings from the Institute’s study of antisemitism on Twitter are quoted in a debate in the House of Commons and recorded in Hansard (UK Parliament’s permanent record of proceedings).

**December 2021** – Findings from the Institute’s study of online antisemitism are reported in The Jewish Chronicle, on the Jewish News and Israel National News websites, in the Sunday Express and across various online news platforms. Dr Julian Hargreaves appears on BBC Radio 4’s Sunday programme to discuss the project’s findings.

**November 2021** – Dr Katherine O’Lone appears on BBC 1 Sunday programme to discuss the Institute’s recently released interfaith evaluation toolkit.
Alumni and Friends

During the anniversary year, we are hoping to engage with as many of our alumni and friends as possible, not only by offering events and talks but also by listening to your experiences and memories. Please do get in touch to share these as we look back over the quarter century and remember how the Woolf started and how it has gone from strength to strength.

Attend our events

No matter where you live there is something for you. We share many talks, blogs and podcasts online but we also hold events in person to which our alumni and supporters are warmly invited. Take a look at our calendar for 2023 and choose something which draws you back to Cambridge. Come and visit us and see for yourself the thriving atmosphere and vibrancy of the place, meet our current students and remind yourself why the Woolf was founded in the first place.
Friends of the Woolf

If you are not yet a Friend, please consider taking out membership. This year, our Friends Scheme will be focused on student support. We are acutely aware of the economic challenges facing most of us in our post-pandemic world, and even more aware of the need to discuss, share and seek solutions to the religious divides which threaten societies. It is more imperative than ever that young people with a passion to listen, learn and share are able to do this in an academic environment like the Woolf and we want to create enough bursary support to ensure no one misses out on a place here because of financial hardship.

Friends of the Woolf will receive the weekly newsletter, ensuring they are always up to date with news and events. They will get invitations and advance notice of what is happening. Most of all, they will know that their contribution is helping support young scholars from around the world to work together and make a difference.

Membership costs as little as £10 a month, but if you are able to give more, the impact of your gift will be even greater.

Visit www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/support-us/making-a-gift for further details or contact development@woolf.cam.ac.uk

Amazon Smile

Do you shop on Amazon? Did you know that you can support the Woolf Institute whilst shopping through AmazonSmile? AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon that lets customers enjoy the same wide selection of products, low prices and convenient shopping features as your usual Amazon. The difference is that when customers buy eligible purchases, AmazonSmile donates 0.5% of the net purchase price (excluding VAT, returns and shipping fees) to the charity of your choice, at no additional cost to you or your chosen charity.

Visit https://smile.amazon.co.uk and log into your regular Amazon account. Choose Woolf Institute from the ‘pick your own charity’ search bar. Shop as usual.

Pledge a Legacy

By pledging a legacy to the Institute, you will help us survive and flourish for the next 25 years and many decades beyond. If you are interested in knowing more, we will be happy to discuss the various ways in which you can pledge a legacy, including naming a bursary or position after a loved one. Your gift can be transformative for future generations. Please get in touch to discuss this if you are interested.

Visit www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/support-us/leaving-a-legacy or contact Liz Winter: ejw39@cam.ac.uk

Thank you

We rely heavily on our donors to support our work. Every gift makes a difference and we are immensely grateful to everyone who gives to the Institute and enables us to keep our voice clear and engaged in the geopolitical debate about faith, conflict and society. Your gifts will have huge impact in the coming months and years. We thank you individually and collectively.