CALL FOR PAPERS

Woolf Institute Conference 2024

Milestones and Turning Points

Woolf Institute, Cambridge, 7 and 8 February 2024

Following last year’s successful event, and to celebrate 25 years of the Woolf Institute, we are hosting our second two-day academic conference in Cambridge on 7 and 8 February 2024.

Our title this year is ‘Milestones and Turning Points’ and we invite proposals for papers from any academic discipline on any topic relating to religion, faith communities and our themes.

We especially welcome proposals from postgraduate students and early career researchers, as well as from practitioners working with faith communities. Papers will be presented in person at the conference. Please note, online presentations are not possible.

Milestones and Turning Points

We welcome proposals for papers that explore how this year’s themes (taken individually or collectively) contribute to the understanding, interpretation, or application of religious practices in historical and contemporary contexts.

Examples of milestones and turning points might include:

• A significant event which has shaped, or continues to shape, faith communities here in the UK or around the world (such as 9/11, the Second Vatican Council or the end of imperial or colonial rule in a particular country or region);

• A significant publication which has had a transformational impact on your field or lives within faith communities (such as Darwin’s Origin of Species or Huntingdon’s Clash of Civilisation thesis);

• A moment that has heralded a new era for religious belief and practice (such as the ordination of female clergy) or a future event that is predicted to bring about new patterns of religion and belief (such as the expected emergence of Islam as the world’s largest religion in terms of followers by 2070).
These are just our initial suggestions. You needn’t feel too restricted by the theme. Perhaps you are involved in a research project or social study where certain milestones are crucial to an end goal. Perhaps, like the Woolf Institute, a significant anniversary within your community enables you to reflect on the community’s past, present and future. Or perhaps your work challenges the notion of a ‘milestone’ or ‘turning point’ and focuses instead on continuity and commonalities across time. If so, please do consider submitting an abstract.

Proposals should be submitted for 20-minute individual papers, or for group panel discussions of 60 minutes (maximum four participants).

Please send submissions including title, abstract (300 words), and biography (100 words) by 1 November 2023 to:

Dr Danielle Padley, Research Fellow, Woolf Institute.

Email: dlp29@cam.ac.uk

Successful applicants will be notified by 1 December 2023

Provisional Schedule

**Day 1 (Wednesday 7 February):**

9:30-11:00  Registration and coffee

11:00-17:00 Welcome and various academic panels and papers (with lunch and coffee)

17:30-19:30 Keynote lecture or invited panel and drinks reception

**Day 2 (Thursday 8 February):**

9:00-11:00 Various academic panels and papers (with coffee)

11:30-13:00 Roundtable (focused on practitioners and non-academics) and final comments

13:00 Conference ends