Among the many highlights of the year was the visit to Qatar by a Centre delegation to take part in the latest ‘Cambridge in …’ programme. ‘Cambridge in Qatar’ brought together scholars from Cambridge, the University of Qatar and Northwestern University-Qatar in a symposium that dealt with anthropology, architecture and heritage studies, language, literature, politics and international relations and translation studies. The symposium was flanked on both sides by cultural activities to museums and places of archaeological interest. The British Ambassador, himself a Cambridge graduate, held a reception in honour of the Cambridge delegates which was attended by a host of people from Qatar and across the diplomatic corps in Doha. Two of the Centre’s Research Associates in Qatar were instrumental in organising the event which was opened by the President of the University of Qatar.

Our three year collaboration with Moroccan universities developed as planned. We held two joint conferences. The first was held in Rabat on economic policy in Morocco. The second on the politics of contemporary culture in Morocco was organised in collaboration with SOAS where it was hosted. The Moroccan Ambassador to the UK opened the conference and expressed her satisfaction at how the ‘Cambridge in Morocco’ programme had spawned a number of high calibre events between Cambridge and British scholars on the one hand, and Moroccan scholars on the other. The role the British Council as a partner in this pioneering collaborative arrangement was fundamental to its success.

The Centre’s report Narratives of Conversion to Islam in Britain: Female perspectives was launched in Scotland at the universities of Glasgow and Edinburgh. I gave a talk based on the report at the Festival of Ideas in Cambridge. The event was over-subscribed, revealing by the great interest in this topic in the UK. I am pleased to note that by the end of September 2014 the report was downloaded more than 90,000 times. This augers well for the follow-up project on conversion to Islam among men in Britain which the Centre plans to launch next year.

In Cambridge the Centre convened the first graduate student symposium on Islam and Muslims in the UK and Europe. This was another highlight of the year. Twenty four graduate students from across the UK, Europe and USA gave presentations on their research, followed by periods of discussion and debate. We hope to publish a volume containing selected papers from the symposium in the course of next academic year. The feedback on this event was so encouraging we have decided to reconvene it next year. The format of involving guest speakers, academic mentors and student presentations worked extremely well.
We continued to hold our Turbulent World Guest Lecture Series at Pembroke College. The Centre also offered financial and administrative support to the first Quran Seminar, held at King’s College in May 2014. The seminar was over-subscribed with people travelling from Scotland and other parts of the UK to attend and participate from the floor. In addition the Centre offered support of various kinds to the following activities at Cambridge: Fifth Gulf Research Meeting, The Tenth Islamic Manuscript Conference and the Wright Lecture Series.

As part of our school outreach programme, the Centre visited local schools and offered lectures on different aspects of Islam to students and teachers. This and similar outreach activities will be expanded next year through dedicated staff of the Centre.

The Centre appointed its first Research Fellow who will start his tenure on 1 October 2014. This will coincide with the start of three graduate studentships on conversion to Islam and the representation of Muslims in the ethnic press in the UK.

Finally, we were sad to say ‘goodbye’ to Philip Rushworth who resigned from the post of Administrative Assistant to start an MPhil degree at the Centre. Philip was a wonderful colleague who always had the best interests of the Centre at heart. We wish him well in his new life as a graduate student.

Professor Yasir Suleiman CBE, FRSE, FRCPE
Founding Director
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BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

The Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Centre of Islamic Studies

The Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Centre of Islamic Studies (CIS) was established in 2008 as a successor to the Centre of Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies (CMEIS). CMEIS was founded in 1960 by Professor Arthur Arberry to foster an interest in the Middle East, particularly the modern Middle East, amongst Cambridge scholars, students and the general public, and to support research.

CMEIS played an active role in promoting Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies amongst academics and the public through lectures, seminars and conferences. The Centre also helped to establish and develop links between individuals and institutions with an interest in Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies. The Centre further encouraged communication between academics, the media and the public.

The Centre of Islamic Studies was established as the successor to CMEIS and was officially opened on 23rd March 2011.

During the academic year 2013/14 the Centre, in partnership with the British Government and other key organisations and institutions, has played an active role in facilitating and promoting dialogue and discussion on a range of topical subjects for a wide international audience. Senior officials, scholars, and faith and community leaders have engaged actively in the Centre’s Outreach programme, the primary aim of which has been to advance tolerance, mutual understanding, and cross-cultural dialogue between Islam and the West.
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Narratives of Conversion to Islam in Britain: Female Perspectives

27 OCTOBER, 5–7PM

Nihon Room, Pembroke College

The talk by Professor Yasir Suleiman focussed on Narratives of Conversion to Islam in Britain: Female Perspectives, a published report by the Centre of Islamic Studies which looks exclusively at female converts to Islam in Britain.

A Common Word Between Us and You; a Muslim-Christian conversation

28 OCTOBER, 8–10PM

Riley Auditorium, Gillespie Centre, Clare College

Rt Revd Rowan Williams and Sheikh Abdul Hakim Murad (Tim Winter) in conversation. The event started with the screening of a film about a groundbreaking Muslim-Christian dialogue initiative called ‘A Common Word’, in which these two Cantabrigians were instrumental.

This event was co-hosted by: The Matheson Trust, The Centre for Islamic Studies, University of Cambridge and The Cambridge Inter-faith Programme.

Narratives of Conversion to Islam in Britain: Female Perspectives

Scottish Launch

21 – 22 JANUARY, 2013

The Centre launched Narratives of Conversion to Islam in Britain: Female Perspectives in Scotland at the University of Glasgow

Glasgow launch

MONDAY 21 OCTOBER 2013, 12.15–2:15PM
(INCLUDING Q&A)

Room 433A/B, St Andrews Building, University of Glasgow

A special roundtable discussion reflecting on a report focused on the experiences of nearly 50 British women of all ages, ethnicities, backgrounds and faiths (or no faith) – who have all converted to Islam. Questions this raises from a Scottish perspective were also explored.

Edinburgh launch

MONDAY 21 OCTOBER, 6:30PM
(FOLLOWED BY A RECEPTION)

Chrystal Macmillan Building, Seminar Room 1, University of Edinburgh

A special conversation event reflected on a landmark report published by the Alwaleed Centre of Islamic Studies at the University of Cambridge. Featuring Project Leader Professor Yasir Suleiman, Laura Winterton (University of Edinburgh, Social Anthropology) and members of the project’s focus groups.

City Circle Narratives of Conversion Talk

FRIDAY 6 DECEMBER, 6:45–8:30PM

Abrar House, London

Professor Yasir Suleiman joined Anissa Kissoon and Dr Jayasanthy Ananthan to discuss the Centre’s Narratives of Conversion to Islam in Britain: Female Perspectives report on Friday 6 December for an event organised by City Circle. The talk was chaired by Kristiane Backer.
Visiting Scholars

Visiting Scholars Day

5 FEBRUARY 2014

Saltsmarsh Rooms, King’s College, Cambridge

The Centre held a Research Day for its current Visiting Scholars, Visiting Fellows and Research Associates on 5 February 2014 at Kings College, Cambridge. This was an opportunity for new Scholars to share their research with staff at the Centre of Islamic Studies and invited guests.

Visiting Scholars Day Programme

10:00  Tea and coffee upon arrival

10:30  Welcome – Yasir Suleiman

10:45  Panel 1: Visiting Scholar talks (15 minutes each)

Chair: Paul Anderson

The Arab Revolutions’ Islamic Spring: Changes in Sunni Islamic Political Thinking as a Catalyst for Civilian Participation
Mohanad Mustafa (Centre for Academic Studies, Israel)

Malay Islamic Occidentalism: An Intellectual Response to Oriental Studies of Malay Islamic Heritage
Hussain Othman (University Tun Hussein Onn, Malaysia)

Instability within stability: Regime study on the Gulf monarchies
Tingyi Wang (Tsinghua University, China)
11:30  Tea and coffee break

11:45  Q & A session

12:30  Lunch

14:00  Panel 2: Visiting Scholar talks (15 minutes each)
      Chair: Yasir Suleiman
      Hydrological Terms in Oman’s Place Names
      Amel Habib & Nafla Al Kharusi (Sultan Qaboos University, Oman)

14:30  Q & A session

15:00  Tea and coffee break

15:15  Visiting Fellows talks (15 minutes each)
      Chair: Yasir Suleiman
      Muslim-Jewish-Christian relations: A.S. Yahuda and his Zionist vision
      Saeko Yazaki (University of Glasgow)
      The Muslim campaign for anti-discrimination legislation in the UK
      Mohammed Abdul Aziz (School of Oriental and African Studies)
      Exploring the impact of Islamic reform among British Muslims
      Dilwar Hussain (Founding Chair, New Horizons in British Islam)
      Islam, racism and the dynamics of inter-racial marriages involving heritage Muslim women
      Tehmina Kazi (Director, British Muslims for Secular Democracy)

16:15  Q & A session

17:15  Concluding remarks – Yasir Suleiman
      Free time

19:30  Dinner
Conference

Cambridge in Qatar: Perspectives on Middle Eastern Studies

17 – 18 MARCH, 2014

As part of its ongoing initiative to enable new partnerships and foster wide-ranging exchanges of knowledge and skills internationally, scholars from Cambridge’s Centre of Islamic Studies co-hosted a symposium at Qatar University’s College of Arts and Sciences.

The exploration of the Middle East and Gulf region ranged from the importance of the Indian Ocean as a medieval trade route, via European Union relations with Gulf States, to the significance of modern social media in the Arab Awakening. Professor Yasir Suleiman led a team of 13 academics and PhD students from Cambridge and Bosnia-Herzegovina to Doha for the latest of the Centre’s ‘Cambridge in…’ series. Sharjah, Morocco and China have all been visited in previous years.

For more information, please see Appendix I.
Programme

SUNDAY 16 MARCH

10:00–4:30 Cultural Orientation (Museum of Islamic Art and Souq Waqif)
6:30–7:30 Public lecture By Professor Yasir Suleiman at Katara Village

MONDAY 17 MARCH

8:00–8:30 Opening Session

Master of Ceremonies:
Dr Eiman Mustafawi, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, Qatar University

Speakers:
Dr Sheikha Al-Misnad, President, Qatar University
Professor Yasir Suleiman, Professor of Modern Arabic Studies and Director, Centre of Islamic Studies University of Cambridge
H.E. Nicholas Hopton, Ambassador, British Embassy

8:30–9:00 Coffee Break (Reception Hall, Administration Building)

9:00–10:15 First Session: Language, Culture and Society

Chair: Dr Tariq Abdullah Ayed Khwaileh, Assistant Professor of English Language, Qatar University

Speakers:
Edward Said: Out of Place, Out of Language
Professor Yasir Suleiman, Director, Centre of Islamic Studies, University of Cambridge

Arab Women Representations
Dr Amal Al-Malki, Executive Director, Translation and Interpreting Institute Hamad Bin Khalifa University

Racing Towards Translation: Minorities of Color and the New Novel from Oman and Saudi Arabia
Dr Moneera Alghadeer, Director of Postgraduate Studies and Research Translation and Interpreting Institute, Hamad Bin Khalifa University

Internal Orientalism: Modern Islamist Appropriation of Orientalist Representation
Dr Zachary Wright, Assistant Professor in Residence, Liberal Arts Program, Northwestern University

10:15–11:15 Second Session: International Relations

Chair: Dr. Youcef Bouandel, Head of Department of International Affairs, Qatar University

Speakers:
EU policy towards the Arab World in light of the Arab Awakening
Professor George Joffe, Senior Fellow of the Centre of International Studies, University of Cambridge

Europe and the Middle East in the Age of the ‘Arab Spring’
Dr Larbi Sadiki, Associate Professor in Political Science, Qatar University
Power Politics Problems and Intervention in Syria
Dr Sean Burns, Lecturer in Residence, Liberal Arts Program, Northwestern University

11:15–11:30  Break

11:30–12:45  Third Session: History
Chair: Dr Mahjoob Zweiri, Head of Department of Humanities, Qatar University

Speakers:
Understanding the history of the Indian Ocean
Professor David Abulafia, Professor of Mediterranean History, University of Cambridge

How should we view our past? Perspectives on British and Arab views on the ending of slavery and the slave trade in the 19th century
Mr Stuart Laing, Master of Corpus Christi College, University of Cambridge

British Protection and Politics in Qatar (1868–1971): Legal and Historical perspectives
Dr Ahmed Abushok, Coordinator of History Program, Qatar University

Representation of slavery in Arabic literature and art
Dr Ahmed Saikanga, Professor, Department of Humanities, Qatar University

12:45–1:45  Lunch (Reception Hall, Administration Building)

1:45–2:45  Fourth Session: Gulf Region
Chair: Dr Steven Wright, Associate Dean for Planning and Quality Assurance, Qatar University

Speakers:
Europe and the Gulf in the shadow of shifting American interests
Dr Geoffrey Edwards, Senior Fellow in the Department of Politics and International Studies, University of Cambridge

Gulf role in the Arab Spring
Dr Abdullah Baabood, Director, Gulf Studies Centre, Qatar University

Gulf Foreign Aid
Dr Khalid Almezaini, Assistant Professor, Gulf Studies Centre, Qatar University

6:30  Opening Dinner (Burj Al Hamam, The Pearl)

TUESDAY 18 MARCH

9:30–11:00  Fifth Session: Urban planning and museums
Chair: Dr Maryam Al-Mulla, Assistant Professor of History, Qatar University

Speakers:
City of Talk – The Production of Urban Space in Aleppo in 2009
Dr. Paul Anderson, Assistant Director of the Centre of Islamic Studies, Prince Alwaleed Lecturer in the Department of Middle Eastern Studies, University of Cambridge

In situ: Museums of national struggle and the institutionalisation of conflict memories
Dr. Wendy Pullan, Head of Research and Director of the Martin Centre for Architectural and Urban Studies, University of Cambridge
Qatar Urbanism: Nostalgia for the Past as Embodied in the Vernacular Architecture of Al-Zubarah Historic Site and the Neo-vernacular Architecture of the Museum of Islamic Art
Dr Mohammedmoin Sadeq, Associate Professor of History, Qatar University

We’re All Qataris Here: The Nation-Building Narrative of the New Qatar National Museum
Dr Jocelyn Sage Mitchell, Assistant Professor in Residence, Liberal Arts Program, Northwestern University

Doha: perspectives on the city as a living museum
Dr Robert Carter, Senior Lecturer in Arab Archeology, University of College London in Qatar

11:00–11:30  Coffee Break (Reception Hall, Administration Building)

11:30–12:30 Sixth Session: Media
Speakers:
From a “media of shame” to a liberated media: Tunisia’s communication transformation since the Arab Awakening
Dr Roxane Farmanfarmaian, Faculty of the Political and International Relations, University of Cambridge

Religious media and fatwasation of the public sphere
Dr Khaled Hroub, Professor in Residence, Liberal Arts Program Northwestern University

Women and Communication Ethics in Islamic-Arab Culture: Toward a New Global Reformist Paradigm
Dr Haydar Badawi Sadig, Associate Professor of Mass Communication, Qatar University

12:30–1:30  Seventh session: Gender and Women’s Studies
Chair: Dr Tahmina Rashid, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Associate Professor of International Affairs, Qatar University
Speakers:
Elections in a republic-in-exile
Dr Alice Wilson, Junior Research Fellow in Social Anthropology, Homerton College, University of Cambridge

Pre-Islamic Arabian Woman: a reading in the Nabataean Story
Dr Hatoon Ajwad A Alfassi, Assistant Professor of International Affairs, Qatar University

Gulf women participation in Public life between the challenges of modernity and traditions commitments
Dr Kaltham Ali G Al-Ghanim, Associate Professor of Sociology, Qatar University

1:30–2:30  Lunch (Reception Hall, Administration Building)

2:30–3:30 Eighth session: Arabic and Beyond
Chair: Dr Mohamed Mostafa Selim Abdel-Latif, Coordinator of Arabic language program, Qatar University
Speakers:
Verbal Hygiene: Lexical Laundering in Israel
Dr Yonatan Mendel, Research Associate, University of Cambridge
Arabic diglossia as a language problem in the discourse of Arabic language academies
Dr Chaoqun Lian, University of Cambridge

Symposium as an Effective way of Teaching Speaking at Qatar University
Dr Abdulqader Abu Shariefeh, Associate Professor, Qatar University

3:30–3:45  Break

3:45–5:00  Ninth Session: Arabic studies continued
Chair: Professor Yasir Suleiman, Professor of Modern Arabic Studies, University of Cambridge

Speakers:
Arabic Studies in Bosnia – Contemporary Approaches: Progress and Prospects
Dr Elma Dizdar, Associate Professor, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Sarajevo

Arabic Studies in Bosnia – Grammatical Thought in Early Manuscripts
Dr Amra Mulovic, Assistant Professor in Arabic Language, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Sarajevo

Rhetoric of the aware and the oppressed: social and political themes in Bosnian poetry written in Arabic script
Dr Munir Mujic, Associate Professor, Department of Oriental Philology of the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Sarajevo

Arabic as a second language in Britain: reality and ambitions
Dr. Muntasir Fayez Al Hamad, Assistant Professor, Qatar University

5:00–5:15  Final and Closing Remarks

6:30–8:30  Reception at British Embassy for Cambridge participants (British Ambassador's Residence)

WEDNESDAY 19 MARCH
Post Symposium event: Cambridge and Bosnian delegates visit Al Zubarah Archaeological Site (UNESCO World Heritage Site).
Workshop

Cambridge in Morocco


28 MARCH 2014

The Centre of Islamic Studies, the British Council in Morocco and the Moroccan British Society held a workshop on job creation in Morocco for policymakers, academics, advisers and postgraduate researchers.

The workshop explored how economic policy can bring about job creation in the future, especially for younger Moroccans below forty years of age. Themes included:

2. State-driven Job Creation
3. Job Creation in the Private Sector
4. Social Development
Workshop programme

8:00  Registration and Refreshments

8:30  Introduction
Mr Martin Rose (Director, British Council in Morocco)
Dr Driss Ouauouicha (Executive Director, Moroccan British Society)
Professor George Joffé (POLIS, University of Cambridge)

8:40  Panel 1: Job Creation and Economic Development – Theory and Reality
Chair: Dr Shana Cohen (Woolf Institute, University of Cambridge)

8:40  Employment and the Economic Challenge
Professor George Joffé (POLIS, University of Cambridge)

9:00  Les nouveaux défis de l’employabilité des jeunes (French)
Dr Driss Guerraoui (Secretary General, CES, l’Université Mohammed V Agdal Rabat)

9:20  World Bank Flagship report on Jobs in the Middle East and North Africa
Dr Diego Urdinola (The World Bank)

9:40  Economic growth and jobs creation in Morocco: overall and sectors’ analysis
Professor Ezzahid EIHadj (Mohammed V-Agdal University, Rabat)
Professor El Alaoui Aicha (Moulay Slimane University-Beni Mellal, Morocco)

10:00  Panel 1 Discussion

10:40  Refreshments

11:00  Panel 2: State-driven job creation
Chair: (tbc)

11:00  Growth and employment in Morocco–Macroeconomic and sectoral framework (French)
Mourad Bentahar (Head of Employment Studies. Ministry of Employment and Social Affairs)

11:20  The Limits of Public Employment Policies in Morocco: the Dynamics between State Measures and the Unemployed Movement Activism
Dr Rachid Touhtouh (INSEA, Rabat)
Dr Btissam Benkerroum (CERED, Rabat)

11:40  Local Economic Policy and Job Creation in the Industrial Sector in Morocco:
Case Study “FezShore”
Stephanie Slaoui-Zirpins (PhD candidate, Goethe University)

12:00  Panel 2 Discussion

12:40  Lunch

1:40  Panel 3: Job creation in the Private Sector
Chair: Dr Mohamed Slassi

1:40  Le rôle de la toute petite entreprise dans la création d’emploi dans le secteur privé
Mouncef Kettani (President, UGEP)

2:00  Création d’emploi, les freins et les limites du dispositif institutionnel (French)
Dr Mohamed Slassi (Président, Commission Formation Professionnelle)
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<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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<td>2:20</td>
<td>Phoning from Morocco: Young Women Working in the Call Centre Industry</td>
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<td>Souad Belhorma (PhD Candidate, Faculté des Lettres et des Sciences Humaines)</td>
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<td>2:40</td>
<td>Panel 3 Discussion</td>
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<td>3:20</td>
<td>Refreshments</td>
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<td>3:40</td>
<td>Panel 4: Social Development</td>
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<td>Chair: Mr Martin Rose (Director, British Council in Morocco)</td>
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<td>3:40</td>
<td>Regional study on Building Effective Employment Programs for youth in MENA</td>
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<td>Dr Saad Belghazi on behalf of Dr Diego Urdinola (The World Bank)</td>
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<td>4:00</td>
<td>Morocco’s Last Fifteen Years Job Market Policy: Graduate Recruitment in the Public Sector Seen from the Eye of a Witness</td>
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<td>Dr Jaouad Radouani (Mohamed Ben Abdellah University)</td>
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<td>4:20</td>
<td>Human Development in the Arab Spring: An Analysis of Past Development and Today’s Morocco toward Shaping a Global Future</td>
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<td>Hedvah Peres (High Atlas Foundation) on behalf of Dr Yossef Ben-Meir (High Atlas Foundation)</td>
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<td>4:40</td>
<td>Panel 4 Discussion</td>
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<td>Conclusion</td>
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<td>Professor George Joffé</td>
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Conference

The Aesthetics and Politics of Contemporary Cultural Productions in Morocco

21 MARCH 2014

SOAS, University of London

Conference rationale:
The conference was supported by the Centre of Islamic Studies alongside the British Council in Morocco and the Moroccan-British Society. Conference Organiser: Dr. Karima Laachir (SOAS, University of London)

Morocco’s cultural productions in the form of literature, cinema, music and art have always been at the forefront of popular struggles for freedom against colonialism, political and social repression and corruption. The conference explored the role played by literature, cinema, and music among other genres of cultural products in revealing the complex social and political tensions in a society aspiring to freedom. The goal was to explore the complex way contemporary cultural products engage with and protest against the dominant social and political discourses on gender issues, oppression, and corruption. This conference was unique in its attempt to explore contemporary Moroccan cultural products in Arabic and French from the perspective of investigating their role in transforming the nature of the connection between the cultural sphere and the exercise of power. It explored how the aesthetics of cultural production—i.e. modes and forms of artistic creation and innovation—are intertwined with politics in terms of providing alternative visions to issues to do with the social and political spheres.

Scholarship on this particular topic is scarce; and therefore, this project is important in its endeavour to map the contemporary multilingual context of the cultural scene in Morocco in its artistic engagement with social and political contexts. Morocco is a strategic North African country which is geographically and culturally situated between Africa, Europe and the Middle East and therefore, it provides a unique context in its amalgamation of various artistic traditions and trajectories.

The conference was a platform where academics working on these topics based in Moroccan universities, in the UK and elsewhere debated these issues. It also hosted a number of Moroccan writers and artists who offered their experiences in the field of cultural production.
Conference programme

8:30–8:45 Registration and Tea/Coffee

8:45–9:00 Welcome and Opening Remarks
Karima Laachir (SOAS, University of London)
Martin Rose (British Council, Morocco)
Paul Anderson (University of Cambridge)

9:00–11:00 Panel 1: Oppositional Aesthetics
Chair: Stefan Sperl (SOAS, University of London)
Larbi Touaf (University Mohamed I, Oujda)
The Legacy of Dissent: Mohamed Khair-Eddine and the Ongoing Debate on Cultural Diversity in Morocco
Karima Laachir (SOAS, University of London)
The Politics and Aesthetics of ‘Reading Together’ the Moroccan Novel in Arabic and French
Najib Mohktari (International University of Rabat)
The Author and his Doubles: Towards a Poetics of Allegories in Youssouf Amine Elalamy’s Nomad Love (2013)
Abdelhay Moudden (Mohamed V University, Rabat)
What Do Novels Tell About Politics? Reflections from the Perspective of Political Science

11:00–11:30 Coffee/Tea Break

11:30–12:30 Panel 2: Multilingualism and the Aesthetics of Contention
Chair: Karima Laachir (SOAS, University of London)
Youssouf Amine Elalamy (Ibn Tofail University, Kenitra)
Darija Art: Towards an Aesthetic Rehabilitation of Moroccan Arabic
Cleo Jay (SOAS, University of London)
The Amazigh Cultural Renaissance in Morocco: Aesthetics of Contention

12:30–1:30 Lunch Break

1:30–2:30 Panel 3: Branding “Morocco”: Between the Local, the National and the Global
Cristina Almeida (SOAS, University of London)
The Politics of Taqlidi sounds in Moroccan Rap: Between Gaining Acceptance and Capitalizing on Moroccanness
Maria Angela Jansen (London College of Fashion)
Defining Moroccanness: Aesthetics and Politics in Contemporary Moroccan Fashion Design

2:30–4:30 Panel 4: Mapping the Politics of Postcolonial Subjectivities
Chair: Ruth Mas (University of Colorado Boulder)
Abdellatif Akbib (University of Abdelmalek Essaadi, Tetouan)
Flower Freak: How Things Fall Apart in Mohamed Choukri’s Short Stories
Jamal Bahmad (University of Stirling)
Mapping Neoliberal Morocco: Realist Aesthetics and the Politics of Postcolonial Subjectivity in the New Urban Cinema
Valerie Orlando (University of Maryland)
Vamps & Tramps: From Psycho Wards to Mountain Brothels, or the Conflicted Spaces & Places of Moroccan Women on Screen

Soumia Boutkhil (University Mohamed I, Oujda)
On their Front Yard: Deconstructing Masculinities in Bahaa Trabelsi’s Novels

4:3 –5:00 Coffee/Tea Break

5:00–6:30 Keynote Speech Sponsored by the International Prize for Arabic Fiction (IPAF)
Mohammed Achaari (Winner of the International Prize for Arabic Fiction for 2011)
Creativity as a Political Choice

7:00 Conference Dinner

Conference

Cambridge Qur’an Seminar

6 MAR 2014

The inaugural meeting of the Cambridge Qur’an Seminar (CQS) was held on 16 May 2014 at Clare College, Cambridge, and included a visit to the University Library to see the University of Cambridge Islamic Manuscripts Collection.

The CQS presented the University of Cambridge Islamic Manuscripts Collection in its wider codicological and historical context, while showcasing the distinctive features of particular manuscripts. The Seminar was designed to highlight the wider relevance of the Cambridge Qur’an Collection for philologists, art historians and historians of Middle Eastern culture.

The Seminar was convened by James Montgomery (FAMES), Shady Nasser (FAMES), Yasmin Faghihi (FAMES/UL) and Elizabeth Key Fowden (FAMES), in association with the Centre of Islamic Studies and other partners.


**Symposium**

**Muslims in the UK and Europe Symposium 2014**

16 – 18 MAY

**Moller Centre, Cambridge**

The first Muslims in the UK and Europe Symposium organised by the Centre of Islamic Studies took place over 16–18 May at the Moller Centre, Cambridge.

Participants included current Masters and PhD candidates who presented their research on issues pertaining to Muslims in the UK and Europe, from any discipline.

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**Programme**

**FRIDAY 16 MAY**

12:00  
Registration & Buffet lunch (Study Centre)

13:45  
Welcome by Professor Yasir Suleiman, Director, Centre of Islamic Studies

14:00  
**Panel 1: Conversion**

*Chair:* Professor Yasir Suleiman

- **Counting the Converts: Using Data from the Scottish Census 2001 to provide a Quantitative Description of Conversion away from Islam**  
  Kevin Brice, University of Newcastle

- **In Search of ‘Pure’ Islam: Conversion to Salafism Among Young Women in London**  
  Anabel Inge, King’s College London

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Appendix II Cambridge Research News Story

*From halal to hip-hop: Muslim life in the UK and Europe comes under the microscope*
Black, Female, Muslim and a Hip-Hop Artist: A case study of Poetic Pilgrimage
Adviya Khan, LSE

15:30  
Tea & Coffee

16:00  
Panel 2: Islamophobia: Muslims in the Eye of the Storm
Chair: Dr Paul Anderson

Muslim Responses to Far Right Confrontation: Ethical and Operational Considerations in Method
Yahya Barry, University of Edinburgh

Islamophobia on the Move: Circulation of Anti-Muslim Prejudice between Poland and the UK
Anna Gawlewicz and Kasia Narkowicz, University of Sheffield

The Role of Self-Esteem in Understanding Anti-Semitic and Islamophobic Prejudice
Maryyum Mehmood, King’s College London

17:30  
Break

17:45  
Keynote Lecture

Discourse Analysis and Media Attitudes: The Representation of Islam in the British Press
Dr Costas Gabrielatos, Senior Lecturer in English Language, Edge Hill University

18:30  
Q&A session
Chair: Professor Yasir Suleiman

19:15  
Free time

20:00  
Dinner (Restaurant)

SATURDAY 17 MAY

07:30–10:00  
Breakfast and Check out

09:00  
Panel 3: Ethics and Policy
Chair: Dr Paul Anderson

Music in the EYFS: How it can Impact Islamic Faith Early Years Settings
Maryam Bham, Cardiff University

Tayyib: British Muslim Piety and the Welfare of Animals for Food
Ruth Helen Corbet, Glasgow University

The Role of the Plurality of Fatwa (ta’addud al-fatwa) for Muslim Minorities and its Rules – An Analysis of Fatwa of the European Council for Fatwa and Research
Ranya Hafez, University of Vienna

10:30  
Tea & Coffee
11:00  Panel 4: Islam in the Public Sphere  
 **Chair:** Professor Yasir Suleiman  
 **Secularism, Reasoning and Religious Freedom in Europe**  
 Farrah Raza, King’s College London  
 **The Use of Mediating Concepts in Ismaili Academic Discourse on Islam in the Public Sphere**  
 Mohammad Magout, University of Leipzig  
 **Young German Muslims and their Visibility in New Media – Emerging Counterpublics**  
 Asmaa Soliman, UCL  

12:30  Lunch (Restaurant)  

14:00  Panel 5: Country Case Studies  
 **Chair:** Professor Mauritz Berger  
 **Islam in Wales**  
 Khosar Khan, Cardiff University  
 **Patterns of State Engagement with Faith-Based Intermediary Organizations in Western Europe: The Second Image Reversed?**  
 Gerald Thomas Fitzgerald, George Mason University  
 **‘Vienna must not become Istanbul’ – The Securitization of Islam and Muslims in Austria**  
 Zsolt Marcell Sereghy, University of Vienna  

15:30  Tea & Coffee break  

16:00  Panel 6: Crossing Boarder  
 **Chair:** Dr Jeremy Henzell-Thomas  
 **Until Death Do Us Depart: Repatriation, Burial, and the Necropolitical Work of Turkish Funeral Funds in Germany**  
 Osman Balkan, University of Pennsylvania  
 **Establishment of Muslim Graveyards in Germany**  
 Erdogan Karakaya, Goethe University  
 **How Sufi Orders Have Adapted to a Western Context: Two Contrasting Examples**  
 Belal Abo Alabbas, University of Oxford  

17:30  Break  

17:45  Evening Lecture  
 **Being German, Becoming Muslim: Race, Religion, and Conversion in the New Europe**  
 Dr Esra Ozyurek, Chair for Contemporary Turkish Studies European Institute, London School of Economics  

18:00  Q&A session  
 **Chair:** Professor Yasir Suleiman  

19:00  Free time  

20:00  Dinner (Private Dining Room – Study Centre)
ANNUAL REPORT 2013/14

SUNDAY 18 MAY

07:30–10:00  Breakfast

09:00  Panel 7: Muslim Consciousness

Chair: Dr Paul Anderson

Religious Travel and the Tablighi Jama’at: Expanding Horizons in Britain and Beyond
Riyaz Timol, Cardiff University

Locating and Exploring Muslim Consciousness in the Narratives of British Muslim
Women in East London
Dr Nasima Hassan, University of East London

10:10  Tea & Coffee

10:30  Panel 8: Muslims in the Fray

Chair: Professor Yasir Suleiman

Exploring the Clinical Experiences of Muslim Psychologists in the UK when Working
with Religion in Therapy
Dr Sara Betteridge, University of East London

"White feminists want to pull your hijab off and liberate you and Muslims tell you that you
don’t need feminism": Feminist Subversions of the Hijab among British Muslim Women
Pina Sadar, Durham University

British Muslim Communities and ‘Everyday Hate Crime’
Julian Hargreaves, Lancaster University

12:00  Plenary Session

Professor Yasir Suleiman, Director, Centre of Islamic Studies

Professor Maurits Berger, Full Professor Islam in the West (Sultan of Oman Chair for Oriental
Studies), Leiden University

Dr Jeremy Henzell-Thomas, Research Associate, Centre of Islamic Studies

13:00  Buffet lunch (Restaurant)

End of Symposium
Conference

Fifth Gulf Research Meeting

25 – 28 AUGUST 2014

The Gulf Research Meeting is an annual three-day conference that aims to foster an academic climate for Gulf Studies and encourage cooperation and exchange between scholars working on or interested in developments in the Gulf. The 2014 Meeting took place between 25 and 28 August and involved close to three hundred participants across fourteen workshops:

Workshop 1: Social Media and the Changing Context of Politics in the Gulf

Workshop 2: The United States and the Gulf: Towards a Reassessment of Gulf Commitments and Alignments?

Workshop 3: Representing the Nation – the Use of Heritage and Museums to Create National Narratives and Identity in the GCC

Workshop 4: The Future of Yemen

Workshop 5: Employed, yet Underemployed and Underestimated: Leadership, Ownership and Work Motivation in the Gulf

Workshop 6: Green Economy in the Gulf Region

Workshop 7: Enhancing the Learning Ecosystem in the GCC: Learning Outside the Classroom (LOtC)

Workshop 8: The GCC States’ Foreign and Security Policies after the Arab Spring

Workshop 9: Science & Technology Education, Research and Innovation in GCC Countries (Sponsored by Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences)

Workshop 10: Determinants of Future Migration in the Gulf

Workshop 11: The Changing Energy Landscape in the Gulf: Strategic Implications

Workshop 12: Iran and the GCC: Prospects for Change?

Workshop 13: Doctoral Symposium: Addressing the Sustainability Agenda in the Gulf Region

Workshop 14: Gulf-Africa Relations: Past and Present Trends (Sponsored by Georgetown University SFS-Q)
Conference

The Tenth Islamic Manuscript Conference

31 AUGUST – 2 SEPTEMBER 2014

Magdalene College, University of Cambridge

The Tenth Islamic Manuscript Conference:
Manuscripts and Conflict
Celebrating the Tenth Anniversary of the
Islamic Manuscript Association

With an Optional Special Programme on
3 September 2014, including a Workshop on
Disaster Planning for Islamic Manuscript Collection

Short Course

Introduction to Islamic Codicology Short Course

15 – 19 SEPTEMBER 2014

University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK
The Islamic Manuscript Association, together with
the Thesaurus Islamicus Foundation, Cambridge
University Library, the Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal
Centre of Islamic Studies and the Faculty Asian
and Middle Eastern Studies at the University of
Cambridge, and Pembroke College, held the eighth
annual Intensive Introduction to Islamic Codicology
course, which took place over 15–19 September
2014 at the University of Cambridge.

This intensive five-day course introduced the study
of Islamic manuscript codices as physical objects, or
the archaeology of the Islamic book. Daily illustrated
lectures provided an overview of writing supports,
the structure of quires, ruling and page layout,
bookbinding, ornamentation, tools and materials
used in book making, and the paleography of book
hands. Participants chose to register for hands-
on sessions during which they examined Islamic
manuscripts from Cambridge University Library
and completed a series of practical exercises on
manuscript description.

The course was led by Professor François Déroche,
director of studies at the École pratique des
hautes études in Paris and author of the book
Islamic Codicology: An Introduction to the Study
of Manuscripts in Arabic Script. During the hands-
on component, Professor Déroche was assisted by
Dr Nuria Martínez de Castilla Muñoz, Lecturer at
Complutense University in Madrid.

The course did not require any knowledge of Arabic,
Persian, Turkish, or other languages spoken in the
Muslim World, and was suitable for art historians,
bookbinders, codicologists, conservators, curators,
and anyone else working with Islamic manuscripts.
Lecture Series

Turbulent World: Maghrib, Mashriq and Gulf in the New Era of Uncertainty

As is often the case, the advent of the Arab Uprisings in 2011 was bathed – in the media and in Western academic circles – with a roseate glow and the belief that Arab exceptionalism had been shown to be a myth so that the Arab world would now enter into the generalised emergence of democratic governance worldwide. There was, to be sure, a residual anxiety, as new governments began to emerge, that the challenge of political Islam as a new force shaping regional political dynamics might find democracy difficult to accommodate. Confidence, however, was placed in the political maturity that such movements seemed to show, a confidence that was not dented by the sudden and unexpected emergence of a new gamut of Salafist movements and parties throughout the region.

In retrospect, of course, such sunny optimism was to prove to be misplaced. Economic realities – in the midst of the worst financial crisis the world has known since the 1930s – have obtruded, wrecking the plans and expectations of the new governments that had emerged, despite high oil prices in the face of the shale revolution. Some regimes, moreover, violently resisted the new democratic wave and global geopolitics, as ever, intervened, as Western suspicions of Iran, and of China and Russia behind it, trumped political realities, consigning Syria and the surrounding states to aggravated instability and suffering. Regional tensions intervened, too, as the confrontation in the Gulf broadened out into a sectarian conflict pitting Sunni against Shi’a. The role of the region as a ‘shatterbelt’ between East and West, in short, continued.

Meanwhile, observers – as is usually the case – seemed to have forgotten the old adage that revolutions often consume their children. The failure of the Morsi presidency in Egypt underlined a fundamental contradiction in the Whiggist narrative of seamless democratic evolution; what happens when a democratically-elected movement loses popular legitimacy long before its term-in-office is ended and it is suspected of ambitions for democratic dictatorship instead? Commentators also seem to have overlooked the vital role and obligation of the state in ensuring national security within the process of monitoring and guaranteeing political change, as the accelerating crisis in Libya underlines. Nor do they seem to have anticipated the role that transitional justice (or vengeance) would play in the development of the new politics, despite the experiences of the waves of democratisation in Latin America and Eastern Europe in recent decades.

At the Centre for Islamic Studies (CIS-FAMES) and the Centre for the study of the International Relations of the Middle East and North Africa (CIRMENA – POLIS), we continue to monitor and comment upon the manifold uncertainties that confront the Arab world today. We seek to engage the wider, interested audience throughout the University and beyond, through a series of fortnightly seminars which we encourage you to attend. They are held between 5.15 pm and 6.45 pm on Thursdays at the Thomas Gray Room at Pembroke College. Do join us!

Series convened by the Centre of Islamic Studies and the Centre for the Study of the International Relations of the Middle East and North Africa.

MICHAELMAS TERM 2013

Dates: Thursdays 17 & 24 October, 7 November & 28 November
Time: 5.15–6.45pm
Place: Thomas Gray Room, Pembroke College, University of Cambridge

17 October
Dr Thomas Pierret, University of Edinburgh
The Rise, Fall, and Revival of Syria’s Mainstream Insurgency

24 October
Dr Adel Iskandar, Georgetown University
Egypt In Flux: On Narrating an Unfinished Revolution
7 November
James Montague, Writer & Journalist
Ultras: How Egyptian Football Fans Helped Topple a Dictator

28 November
Dr Lori Allen, University of Cambridge
*Cynicism and Human Rights in Palestinian Politics
*No. 1 Newnham Terrace, Darwin College

LENT TERM 2013

Dates: Thursdays 23 January, 13 & 27 February, 6 March,
Time: 5.15 – 6.45pm
Place: Thomas Gray Room, Pembroke College,
University of Cambridge

23 January
Professor Ali Ansari, University of St Andrews
Persian Summer and Arab Spring: Iran and Regional Developments

13 February
Dr Yossef Rapoport, Queen Mary, University of London
One Land, Two States: Reflections on Refugees, Settlers and Walls

27 February
Alison Pargeter, RUSI and Menas Associates
The Ikhwan in Turmoil: The Muslim Brotherhood After the Arab Spring

6 March
Dr Ozden Oktav, University of St Andrews
The Syrian Uprising and Turkey

EASTER TERM 2013

Dates: 24 April, 8 May, 14 May and 22 May
Place: Thomas Gray Room, Pembroke College,
University of Cambridge

Thursday, 24 April
Professor Gareth Stansfield (University of Exeter)
Masters of their Destiny or Destined to be Mastered?
Kurdish Political and Economic Strategies in Iraq

Thursday, 8 May
Dr Toby Matthiesen (University of Cambridge)
McCarthyism and Counter-Revolution: The Gulf States and the New Regional Order

Wednesday, 14 May
Mr Stuart Laing (University of Cambridge)
Shaykh but not Stirred: Prospects for Gulf Societies

Thursday, 22 May
Professor Yezid Sayigh (Carnegie Middle East Centre)
Comparing Palestinian and Syrian Revolutionary Experiences
Lecture Series

Wright Lecture Series

William Wright (1830–1889) was Sir Thomas Adams’s Professor of Arabic in the University of Cambridge and was renowned as a Semiticist and a philologist. The Wright Lecture Series, named in his honour, is run by the Department of Middle Eastern Studies in the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies in association with the Centre of Islamic Studies. Reflecting the spread of the Department’s academic interests, the Wright Lecture Series addresses topics of relevance to the study and understanding of the Middle East, Iran and India, ancient and modern.

Time: 5–6.30pm
Place: Rooms 8 & 9, Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, Sidgwick Avenue, University of Cambridge

Programme

MICHAELMAS TERM 2013

29 October
Professor Geert Jan van Gelder (Oxford)
The Doubts of Ibn al-Shibl al-Baghdadi (d. 474/1081–2), Poet, Philosopher, and Physician

12 November
Professor Charles Tripp (SOAS, University of London)
Fighting to Reclaim the City in the Middle East: Emerging publics and theatres of violence

26 November
Dr James Hegarty (Cardiff University)
The Conversations of Gods, Sages and Kings in Hindu, Jain and Buddhist Traditions

5 December
Professor Ludwig Paul (Asien-Afrika-Institut, Universität Hamburg)
Early Judaeo-Persian as an Ethnolect on the Middle Eastern Scene, and the Judaeo-Persian Formulae on the Kollam Plates

LENT TERM 2014

21 January
Professor James Montgomery (Cambridge)
Al-Jahiz and the Hippocratic Corpus in Arabic

4 February
Dr Gabrielle van den Berg (Universiteit Leiden)
The Art of Celebrating: Life at the court as represented in Ghaznavid and Saljuq Court Poetry

18 February
Professor Sefan Reif (Cambridge)
The Development of Metaphors in the Liturgical Hebrew of Early Rabbinic Judaism
Outreach Programme

Part of the remit of the Centre of Islamic Studies is to use the expertise of the University of Cambridge to enrich and inform education, debate and discussion beyond traditional boundaries. As well as holding public events and lecture series, the Centre continues to build relationships with schools, youth and civil society initiatives, the further education sector in the UK (including those graduating from Muslim seminaries or darul ulooms in the UK), and Higher Education institutions worldwide.

Friends’ School, Saffron Walden

Shahla Suleiman gave a talk on women in Islam to Year 11 students at Friends’ School in Saffron Walden on 15 November 2013.
Public lecture

Public lecture by Paul Anderson
Accounting for Morality: Concepts of Moral Personhood among Syrian Traders in Aleppo in 2009

21 OCTOBER 2013
Alakhawayn University

School of Humanities and Social Sciences

is pleased to invite you to a public lecture on

Accounting for Morality
Concepts of Moral Personhood among Syrian Traders in Aleppo in 2009

By
Dr. Paul Anderson
Assistant Director
HRH Prince Alwaleed Centre of Islamic Studies
University of Cambridge

Monday, October 21, at 2:40 PM in the Boardroom (Bldg. 1)

Abstract: The talk will explore concepts and practices of morality among shopkeepers and businessmen in Aleppo in 2009. Recent ethnographic studies of morality in the Middle East - notably in Egypt and Lebanon - have focused on the concept of Islamic "piety". They have explored the ways in which both men and women shape themselves as exemplary Muslims by disciplining their hearts and bodies through traditions of Islamic teaching and learning - what Talal Asad has called the Islamic "discursive tradition". While piety is important in the Syrian context, Dr. Anderson will argue for a different way of thinking about moral personhood among Syrian shopkeepers and businessmen in Aleppo in 2009. The talk will do so by exploring (i) commercial accounting, and (ii) narrative accounts of absence and death, and asking what they have in common.
VISITING FELLOWS AND SCHOLARS
VISITING FELLOWS AND SCHOLARS

Visiting Fellows

Dr Shana Cohen
Stone Ashdown Director, Woolf Institute

**Research interests:** public services; non-profit organizations; political alienation in North Africa; inequality; comparative values of social justice and social good.

**Research at Cambridge:** contemporary values and practices of social good and society within Judaism, Islam, and Christianity.

Dr Yousef Meri
Academic Director, Centre for the Study of Muslim-Jewish Relations, Woolf Institute
Fellow, St Edmund's College, Cambridge

**Research interests:** medieval Islamic history and civilisation; Jews of Arab lands in pre-modern and modern times; academic study of Muslim-Jewish relations; memory and history; history of religions, ritual studies; pilgrimage, saints and sacred objects in Islam, Judaism and Christianity; sacred space.

**Research at Cambridge:** a book project on memory among Muslims and Jews in the Islamic World.

Dr Abdelwahab El-Affendi
Reader in Politics
University of Westminster

**Research interests:** democracy and Islam; violence; democracy and insecurity.

**Research at Cambridge:** violence; democracy and insecurity.
Research Associates

Visiting Fellows and Scholars and Research Associates are at the heart of the Centre of Islamic Studies’ intellectual community. They contribute to our research and outreach activities, while benefiting from contact with the University of Cambridge’s wider community, its library and research facilities. Research Associates are usually appointed by invitation only.

Dr Jeremy Henzell-Thomas
From 2000–2010, Dr. Jeremy Henzell-Thomas was the Founding Executive Director of the Book Foundation, a registered UK charity which works with partner institutions in the UK and the USA to improve understanding of Islam in the West. He was the first Chair of the Forum Against Islamophobia and Racism (FAIR), and is currently a member of the Executive Committee of the Association of Muslim Social Scientists (AMSS UK) and a member of the Advisory Board of the Prince Alwaleed Centre for the Study of Islam in the Contemporary World at the University of Edinburgh. A Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, he speaks and writes widely on the themes of education, culture, society and spirituality, having written regular reflections over the years for Islamica and emel magazines, and more recently for the Credo column in The Times. Jeremy’s current research interests include Islam and pluralism, inter-cultural and holistic education, and shared values. A former lecturer in Applied Linguistics at the University of Edinburgh, he is also engaged in research which applies his academic specialism of psycholinguistics to contemporary issues affecting public perception of Islam and Muslims.

Mohammed Abdul Aziz
Mohammed Abdul Aziz was the founding CEO of the Forum Against Islamophobia and Racism and the British Muslim Research Centre, and the founding Director of FaithWise Ltd. He subsequently worked for 8 years in central government as Advisor and Senior Advisor to senior civil servants and ministers in race and religion. He has held various public appointment positions, including Commissioner at the Commission for Racial Equality, the Equal Opportunities Commission and TUC’s Commission on Vulnerable Employment. He has also been a Chair of the European Network Against Racism and is presently a Vice-Chair of the Equality & Diversity Forum. Mohammed is the Director of the Centre for Public Education at the Woolf Institute in Cambridge and a Nohoudh Scholar/PhD Candidate at SOAS in London.

Dr Abdullah Baabood
Dr Abdullah Baabood’s research interests focus on the states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), primarily their economic, social and political development and their external relations. He has published widely on these topics. Abdullah is a graduate in Business and Economics and holds a master’s degree in Business Administration (MBA), a master’s in International Relations (MA), and a PhD from the University of Cambridge. He is also a member of several academic and professional bodies.
Dr Khaled Hroub
Dr Khaled Hroub’s areas of research include the contemporary history and politics of the Middle East with a focus on Islamism and its political manifestations; the socio-political and cultural impact of the ‘new’ media in the Arab world; the role of public intellectuals; and the Arab novel. He has published widely on Hamas and political Islam. Currently he is writing a book critique of the Arab renaissance project. He also publishes weekly articles in leading Arab and world media.

Dilwar Hussain
Dilwar Hussain has research interests in social policy, Muslim identity and Islamic reform in the modern world and blogs at: www.dilwar.org. He is founding Chair of New Horizons in British Islam a charity that works for reform and contextualisation of Muslim thought and practice, Director of Pacata Consulting, a Senior Programme Advisor to the Institute for Strategic Dialogue and a Research Fellow at the Lokahi Foundation. Dilwar is a Trustee of the Three Faiths Forum (3FF), the Islamic Society of Britain, the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust and Maslaha. He was Head of the Policy Research Centre at the Islamic Foundation (2007–2013), a Commissioner at the Commission for Racial Equality (CRE) (2006–2007) and served on the Archbishop of Canterbury’s Commission on Urban Life and Faith (2005–2006).

Dr Yonatan Mendel
Dr Yonatan Mendel completed his doctoral studies in the Department of Middle Eastern Studies at Cambridge University. His thesis examined the history of Arabic studies in Jewish schools in Palestine/Israel from 1935 to 1985, and focused on the politicisation and securitisation of the language. His research deals with topics such as language policy and war, security considerations and language planning, and the interrelationship between political conflict and foreign language studies in Israel/Palestine. His book, The Creation of Israeli-Arabic: The Political History and Securitisation of Arabic Language Studies in Israeli-Jewish Society, will be published in 2014 (Palgrave Macmillan). Mendel is a regular contributor to the London Review of Books and has published widely on Israeli society and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in English, Arabic and Hebrew.

Dr Saeko Yazaki
Dr Saeko Yazaki was the Outreach and Project Manager of the Centre of Islamic Studies from 2010 to 2012. Her areas of research include the mysticism and epistemology of religion, the Judaico-Islamic tradition in al-Andalus, and their continuing relevance to the present. She is also pursuing comparative study of monotheistic and non-monotheistic faiths. In her forthcoming monograph, Islamic Mysticism and Abu Talib al-Makki: The Role of the Heart (Routledge, 2012), she addresses
Visiting Scholars 2013/14

Dr Mohanad Mustafa
Lecturer, Centre for Academic Studies

Research Interests: Democratisation in the Arab World, political Islam, the Palestinian minority in Israel and Palestinian politics.
Research at Cambridge: The Islamic philosophy underlying the Arab Spring: the breakdown of the concept of obedience to the regime (Al-Ahkam Al-Sultania).

Dr Hussain Othman
Associate Professor in Islamic Civilization and Education
University Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia

Research interests: Islamic studies, Islamic history and civilization; Malay Islamic history and literature in South East Asia; Islamic education, curriculum and teaching; Problem-Based Learning.
Research at Cambridge: Colonial Historians and the Historical Perspectives of the Malay Muslim World in South East Asia; Writings of British historians and their perspectives on Malay Muslim history in early 20th century.

Omar Adam Sayfo
PhD Student, Utrecht University

Research Interests: Arab Identity, Cultural Identity in the Arab World, Arab Media, Political Propaganda in the Arab World
Research at Cambridge: Identity formation in Arab cinema and media

the complexity of the Sufi-Hanbali interaction on the one hand, and the Muslim-Jewish nexus on the other, through an exploration of the religious image of the heart in the works of the tenth-century Sufi preacher al-Makki, and specifically his book on ethics, Qut al-qulub (‘The Nourishment of Hearts’). Currently she is carrying out research on the deep connections between Jewish and Muslim spirituality. Saeko has now taken up the post of Lord Kelvin Adam Smith Fellow at Theology and Religious Studies, University of Glasgow.
Irine Giorgadze
PhD Student, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University

Research interests: Arabic Literature with an emphasis on modern Arabic short stories; Some issues of translation of Arabic Literature into Georgian.


Tingyi Wang
PhD Student, Tsinghua University, China

Research Interests: Arabic law, especially the laws of Egypt and Saudi Arabia; comparative politics in the Middle East, especially the Gulf region; modern Egyptian politics; developing country studies in the Middle East.

Research at Cambridge: Regime stability in the Gulf region and politics in Saudi Arabia.

Humaira Chowdhury
PhD Student, School of Women’s Studies, Jadavpur University, Kolkata

Research Interests: Gender Studies; feminist epistemology; political sociology; post-colonial histories.

Research at Cambridge: Explore the everyday lived experiences of veiled Muslim women and the implications of veiling within ‘secular’, multicultural spaces.

Dr Amel A. H. Salman
Assistant Professor, Linguistics and Translation Sultan Qaboos University

Research Interests: Ethnolinguistics; Ethnophysiography; Language and Culture.

Research at Cambridge: A linguistic and ethnographic project on toponyms in Oman with an emphasis on how people perceive and name the surrounding landscape.
Dr Nafla Al Kharusi  
Assistant Professor, College of Arts and Social Sciences  
Sultan Qaboos University  

**Research interests:** Ethnolinguistics; identity politics.  
**Research at Cambridge:** The relationship between landscape features and place names; how different cultures conceptualize landscape features and express them in language.

Dr Emad Abdel Latif  
Associate Professor  
Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Qatar University  

**Research Interests:** Arabic rhetoric; political discourse; audience responses; critical discourse analysis.  
**Research at Cambridge:** Plausible Discourses: Interdiscursivity between religious and educational discourses in Arabic classes.

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**Final Reports**

**Report from Visiting Scholar Mohanad Mustafa**

The major purpose of my visit was to complete my research on: “The Arab Revolutions’ Islamic Spring: Changes in Sunni Islamic Political Thinking as a Catalyst for Civilian Participation”. I completed my research during the months I spent at Cambridge University’s Centre of Islamic Studies, supervised by Professor Yasir Suleiman. It was an exciting and useful experience which developed my academic knowledge and methods, particularly in my field of interest, Middle Eastern Studies.

In addition to this mission, I spent vast amounts of time working at the library and participating in various seminars and conferences on Middle East issues. This gave me the opportunity to write another article besides my main research that I mentioned above. During this period I read many important books on Islamic studies, collected a lot of materials on Islamic political thought, and politics in the Middle East.

My stay at Cambridge, particularly at CIS, was a significant period in my academic career and I hope in the future that I will be able to cooperate with the Centre in another research project; it is the perfect place to do it.

I would like to express my gratitude to all the staff working at the Centre: Professor Yasir Suleiman, the Director and my Supervisor; Dr Paul Anderson for being supportive; and Harriet Hine and Philip Rushworth for their administrative support which made my stay in Cambridge comfortable and trouble-free.
Report from Visiting Scholar Hussain Othman

Since the publication of my first two books, Malay Historical Thought (2008) & Malay Historiography from Cosmological Perspectives (2010), I have had many questions come to my mind. One issue, in particular, triggered my intellectual curiosity: almost 90% of my references on the history of Malay Muslims, including the authoritative sources of the critical-edition Malay Muslim texts such as the Malay Annals and the Chronicles of Pasai, are the works of orientalists, mostly British.

For a long time I have had to deal with the numerous misinterpretations, misconceptions and mistreatment of these texts, with almost nothing inside them that represents the worldview of Malay Muslims. I strongly argued that these texts reflect the fact that the British orientalists were foreigners who lacked understanding of Malay culture and, more importantly, Islam as the religion of the Malays. However, this argument required further clarification and proper academic study. A great opportunity was offered to me when I became a Visiting Scholar at the Centre of Islamic Studies, University of Cambridge, from September 2013 to May 2014.

My study departs from three main questions:

1. How did the misinterpretations, misconceptions and mistreatment of Malay Muslim sources come to exist?
2. Is there a historical and intellectual explanation for this issue?
3. What can I do to explain the situation and propose a proper solution?

Throughout my time in Cambridge I have discovered an abundance of resources at the University Library and the library of the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies. This includes a complete set of source compilations, journal volumes, and academic books related to the study of Malay Islamic history and civilisation. My thorough work on these sources provided many new insights and helped me answer my research questions.

I had a very fruitful nine months sabbatical at the University of Cambridge. I managed to complete two manuscripts for publication and I have had three journal papers accepted for publication in ISI and Scopus Indexed. I strongly believe these achievements would not have materialised without the assistance and strong support from the team at the Prince Alwaleed bin Talal Centre of Islamic Studies, University of Cambridge. My ongoing discussions with Professor Yasir Suleiman and Dr Paul Anderson enabled me to guide my study with proper direction, and whenever I had logistical or technical problems Harriet Hine and Philip Rushworth were there to assist me. Their notifications provided me with valuable information regarding academic seminars and public lectures organised at the University of Cambridge. I sincerely thank everyone at the Centre of Islamic Studies for their remarkable job in providing me with the most memorable time at Cambridge.

Report from Visiting Scholar Omar Adam Sayfo

The two and a half months I spent as a Visiting Scholar at the Centre of Islamic Studies was a significant milestone in my academic career.

Professor Yasir Suleiman and Dr Paul Anderson were the kindest of hosts, who made a great effort to supply me with relevant academic materials, while also keeping their doors open for academic discussions. The personal consultations with Professor Suleiman helped me a great deal in improving my chapter on language as a marker of identity in Arab media texts, while the discussions with Dr Anderson broadened my knowledge on a wide range of topics. The hospitality of everybody at the Centre made me feel as if I was a member of the team.
During my stay I had a chance to attend the programmes organised by the Centre, such as the ‘Turbulent World’ seminar series, which explores political and social developments in the Arab world, and the ‘Muslims in the UK and Europe’ symposium which brought to Cambridge a large number of prospective young scholars from across Europe and the United States.

While staying in Cambridge I also had the opportunity to join the newly established Media Group, organised by Dr Roxane Farmanfarmaian at the Department of Politics and International Studies. I was pleased to have the opportunity to give a presentation on my research topic and the constructive feedback I received from members of the group really helped me to develop my thesis.

As a Visiting Scholar at the Centre I was able to join the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies library and other University libraries, which helped me access a wide range of literature and gave me the opportunity to bring my dissertation to the final stages of completion. The expectations I had for improving my PhD thesis were more than met during my three-month stay at the Centre.

Finally, my stay could not have been so delightful without the support of Harriet Hine and Philip Rushworth, who were always kind and very helpful in administrative matters.

Report from Visiting Scholar Irine Giorgadze

The two months that I spent as a Visiting Scholar at the Centre of Islamic Studies were very memorable and fruitful from both an academic and personal point of view.

I am at the beginning of my research so the major purpose of my visit was to collect material and to compile a bibliography for my dissertation. The resources in Cambridge library are unrivaled and I managed to find many books related to my research interests. In addition I had a number of useful meetings with Professor Yasir Suleiman.

During my stay I had a chance to attend the “Turbulent World” lecture series and also attended the “Muslims in the UK and Europe” symposium organised by the Centre of Islamic Studies which broadened my knowledge greatly about methodology, Islam and Muslims.

During my time in Cambridge I have developed my research, attended interesting lectures, gained important academic contacts and made loyal friends. I also managed to meet the Syrian short story writer, Zakariya Tamir, to whom I’m dedicating my PhD research.

I would like to express my gratitude to the CIS team: Professor Yasir Suleiman my supervisor, Dr Paul Anderson for interesting conversations, Harriet Hine and Philip Rushworth for their administrative support and friendly attitude. During my short time with the Centre I really did feel like a member of the team.

I hope that future academic relations between CIS and Tbilisi State University will be strengthened.
Report from Visiting Scholar Tingyi Wang

I benefited greatly from my time as a Visiting Scholar at the Centre of Islamic Studies between 2 October 2013 and 23 June 2014. It has been a valuable opportunity and unforgettable experience to conduct my research here. During my time in Cambridge I was able to access a wealth of academic material. I was also able to network with scholars from both the UK and other parts of the world which was very helpful to my research.

My research in Cambridge mainly focused on the relationship between the Persian Gulf region and East Asia taking other international relations into consideration as well. The seminars and conferences organized by the Centre greatly broadened my knowledge about the Middle East and Islamic world as a whole. I’m very grateful for Professor Suleiman’s guidance with my research. The Centre’s staff were also very helpful and willing to assist with any queries.

Report from Visiting Scholar Humaira Chowdhury

My experience as a Visiting Scholar at the Centre of Islamic Studies (CIS) has been invigorating and intellectually stimulating. I was awarded the INLAKS Foundation PhD travel grant to pursue 3 months of research at the CIS, from 4 May – 6 August 2014.

My proposed doctoral research attempts to explore the everyday lived experiences of veiled Muslim women in Calcutta, West Bengal. My research proposes to address two main trajectories—the ways in which local meanings of the veil are produced and negotiated within and outside Muslim neighbourhoods in Calcutta; and the political economy and changing aesthetics of the veil, how it reconfigures the concept of ‘agency’.

As a Visiting Scholar at the Centre, I had access to the FAMES library; the Centre of South Asian Studies library and the main University Library. All the books, journal articles, and online archives I referred to; and the research materials that I gathered from these sources, helped me immensely to sharpen the scope of my study.

I was a listening-participant at the Symposium on ‘Muslims in Europe and UK’ organized by the Centre of Islamic Studies (16–18 May, 2014). Masters and PhD students from different Universities in Europe and the U.K participated in this Symposium. The panel discussions focused on an array of themes such as conversion; forms of piety and religiosity; representation of Islam in the media; Islam in the public sphere; Muslim consciousness; and Islamophobia. This Symposium gave me an opportunity to listen, learn, interact and engage with scholars and researchers with expertise in different academic fields. I also received some enriching insights and feedback on my proposed research from academics and PhD students present at the Symposium.

I attended the ‘Turbulent World: Maghrib, Mashriq and the Gulf in the New Era of Uncertainty’ lecture series organized by the Centre of Islamic Studies. This series comprised of four lectures concerning the social, political and economic uncertainties that confront the Arab world today.

I was also part of the Middle East Reading group. I actively participated in the reading-group discussions and found myself enthusiastically engaging in areas of Middle-Eastern politics.

I attended the ‘Academic Writing Workshop’ organized by the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies and the Language Centre. The focus of this workshop was to train PhD students to write in a language that is conclusive, clear and coherent. Being a part of the workshop helped me to reflect on my own writing skills and the ways in which I could improve it.
Apart from being involved in my own research work, I spent some time experiencing the culture at Cambridge. Speaking with a diverse set of doctoral students, with an eclectic mix of research interests, helped me to cultivate an interdisciplinary perspective to my project.

I am deeply indebted to the INLAKS Foundation for awarding me the travel grant to pursue 3 months of research at the Centre of Islamic Studies. I have returned with extremely fertile ideas and a lot of inspiration to resume work on my research with utmost verve and vigour.

I owe my sincere gratitude and acknowledgement to Professor Yasir Suleiman for his constant guidance and supervision; Dr Paul Anderson for his words of encouragement and thoughts on my proposed research work; Professor Joya Chatterji (Director, Centre of South Asian Studies) for pointing out the importance and need of historiography in my research; Mrs Barbara Roe (Administrator) and Dr Kevin Greenbank (Archivist) for giving me access to the archives at the Centre of South Asian Studies library; my fellow Visiting Scholars from Oman, Georgia, Hungary and China for exchanging ideas and their research interests with me; and Mrs Harriet Hine and Mr Philip Rushworth for their continuous support at the Centre.

Report from Visiting Scholars Dr Amel A. H. Salman and Dr Nafla Al Kharusi

We spent an extremely rewarding and intellectually stimulating year at the Centre of Islamic Studies (CIS) as Visiting Scholars conducting research on landscape categorization.

Within an ethnophysiographical context, our research focused on:

- How people across Oman’s diverse regions perceive landscape features, categorize them, and select them for linguistic expression
- How the relationship between language, physical environment, and subsistence activity is reflected in the way people conceptualize and delimit their landscape

We were fortunate to be in Cambridge since it gave us access to the wide range of literature and manuscripts in both the FAMES and Main University libraries. This helped us immensely to sharpen our study focus and broaden our specialist knowledge.

We were also able to attend the first ‘Muslims in Europe and UK’ symposium that took place in May this year, where we met postgraduate students from British and European universities and heard many stimulating presentations. Another rewarding aspect of CIS affiliation was attendance at the Middle East Reading Group, where discussion was always vigorous, topical, and highly informed.

We would like to express our gratitude to Professor Yasir Suleiman for welcoming us to Cambridge and the opportunity to conduct research in one of the world’s leading centres of scholarship. Indeed, with his encouragement and advice, we not only managed to experience Cambridge’s culture but also to enjoy the unforgettable beauty of the English countryside. As for Harriet Hine and Philip Rushworth, they deserve our thanks for simply being there and supporting us every inch of the way.
Report from Visiting Scholar Emad Abdel Latif

I spent two weeks, from 01/09/14 to 14/09/2014, at Cambridge University Centre of Islamic Studies as a Visiting Scholar. The goal of my visit was to attend lectures, workshops and seminars and make use of the library of Cambridge University. I planned also to discuss my research and ideas with interested colleagues to gain their input and explore the possibility of conducting joint research with colleagues from Cambridge University.

During my stay at Cambridge University, I had the opportunity to use its rich library which provided me with lots of important resources. It was great to meet Professor Yasir Suleiman and to consult him concerning my research project. He gave me deep and thoughtful recommendations. Harriet Hine and Philip Rushworths’ friendly and kind reception was great. I would like to express my gratitude to both of them.
PARTNERS
Gulf Research Centre-Cambridge (GRC-C)

The Gulf Research Centre Cambridge (GRC-C) is the Gulf Research Centre office in Cambridge, UK. GRC-C is a registered UK Charity, cooperating closely with the Centre of Islamic Studies at the University of Cambridge. The prime directive of GRC-C is to advance education and research on political, economic, social and security issues and other matters relating to member countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council and other countries of the Gulf region including Iran, Iraq and Yemen.

The Gulf Research Centre Cambridge organises the annual Gulf Research Meeting (GRM) which seeks to provide an academic environment to foster Gulf studies and promote scholarly exchanges among scholars working on/or having familiarity with the Gulf region. GRM identifies subjects of importance to the Gulf region, stimulates research in these subjects, and provides a forum for broad dissemination of the research results. Motivated by the same objectives underlying the Gulf Research Meeting, GRC-C also serves as a platform for other events throughout the year and provides a focal point for students dedicated to carrying out and promoting critical research related to the Gulf.

The Gulf Research Centre Cambridge is a registered charity organization under the Charity Commission for England and Wales and can therefore receive tax deductible donations.
The Islamic Manuscript Association (TIMA)

The Islamic Manuscript Association (TIMA) is an international non-profit organisation dedicated to protecting Islamic manuscript collections and supporting those who work with them. It was formed in response to the urgent need to address the poor preservation and inaccessibility of many Islamic manuscript collections around the world.

The Islamic Manuscript Association:
• Articulates standards and guidelines for best practice in cataloguing, conservation, digitisation and academic publishing so that Islamic manuscript collections may be made more accessible and preserved for posterity.
• Promotes the highest ethical and professional standards in the care and management of Islamic manuscript collections.
• Promotes excellence in scholarship on Islamic manuscripts, particularly Islamic codicology and disciplines related to the care and management of Islamic manuscript collections.
• Provides a platform for presenting scholarship on Islamic manuscripts, particularly Islamic codicology and disciplines related to the care and management of Islamic manuscript collections, at its annual conference at the University of Cambridge.
• Provides a wide range of online resources about manuscripts and their care.
• Awards grants to support the care of Islamic manuscript collections and advance scholarship on Islamic manuscripts.
• Organises regular training workshops in cataloguing, conservation, digitisation and academic publishing as well as an annual workshop on Islamic codicology in cooperation with Cambridge University Library.
• Facilitates dialogue between individuals with scholarly and professional interests in Islamic manuscripts and institutions holding collections of Islamic manuscripts.

TIMA includes among its members libraries and museums possessing collections of Islamic manuscripts as well as individuals with scholarly and professional interests in Islamic manuscripts. Over 150 persons from 25 different countries are members. Members have the right to vote, hold office, apply for grants and receive members’ rates for the annual conference and training workshops.

TIMA is an affiliated project of the Centre of Islamic Studies and is one of the principal projects of the Thesaurus Islamicus Foundation.
APPENDICES

APPENDIX I:
Cambridge in Qatar

APPENDIX II:
Muslims in the UK and Europe Postgraduate Symposium
APPENDIX I
CAMBRIDGE IN QATAR

News story

Cambridge in Qatar

“The symposium is a unique opportunity to establish new connections between universities in Qatar and Cambridge”
Yasir Suleiman

Today, as part of its ongoing initiative to enable new partnerships and foster wide-ranging exchanges of knowledge and skills internationally, scholars from Cambridge’s Centre of Islamic Studies will be co-hosting a symposium at Qatar University’s College of Arts and Sciences. The exploration of the Middle East and Gulf region will range from the importance of the Indian Ocean as a medieval trade route, via European Union relations with Gulf States, to the significance of modern social media in the Arab Awakening.

Director Professor Yasir Suleiman is leading a team of 13 academics and PhD students from Cambridge and Bosnia-Herzegovina to Doha for the latest of the Centre’s ‘Cambridge in…’ series. Sharjah, Morocco and China have all been visited in previous years.

Dr Roxane Farmanfarmaian (Department of Politics and International Studies) will examine Tunisia’s changing media and political landscape, focussing particularly on the post-revolution use of social media by young people and its impact on constitution-building, party politics, and policy construction.

The notion that the ancient and early medieval Indian Ocean was effectively the ‘silk road of the sea’ will be examined by David Abulafia,
drawing on both new archaeological evidence and reinterpreted classical sources such as the Periplous of the Erythraean Sea, describing the routes linking Roman Egypt to India. These channels served not only as means by which goods were traded, but also as important cultural networks, and their study is helping our understanding of the economic role of both the Gulf and the Red Sea in antiquity and the Middle Ages.

Although slave trading in the Indian Ocean and the Red Sea had a long history, and continued for many decades after abolition in Britain, there appears to be little awareness about its extent amongst Arab societies today. Despite the lack of contemporary written material, Stuart Laing (Master of Corpus Christi College) will attempt to piece together the stories of Arab slave traders and owners.

EU foreign and security policies have been sorely tested over the past decade, particularly given the shifting nature of America interests, with the result that Europe appears to have little strategic idea about what its policies towards the Gulf should be. Geoffrey Edwards will make his way through the paradoxes and nuances of Euro-Gulf relations, exploring differing models of integration and cooperation.

Professor Suleiman said: “The symposium is a unique opportunity to establish new connections between universities in Qatar and Cambridge aiming at fostering joint research projects and academic exchanges at various levels.”
APPENDIX II
MUSLIMS IN THE UK AND EUROPE
POSTGRADUATE SYMPOSIUM

From halal to hip-hop: Muslim life in the UK and Europe comes under the microscope

"Muslims are rarely out of the news in the West"
Yasir Suleiman

Halal meat, the representation of Islam in the British press, and female, Muslim hip-hop artists will all be topics of discussion at a three-day symposium held by Cambridge University’s Centre of Islamic Studies.

Muslims in the UK and Europe runs from May 16–18 when 24 current Master’s and PhD candidates from universities in Britain and Europe will gather to discuss, debate and present their research on issues affecting the life of Muslims in the 21st century.

Conversion to Salafism, hate crimes and wearing of the hijab will also come under scrutiny at the event, which takes place at the Moller Centre, located in the grounds of Churchill College, Cambridge.

Professor Yasir Suleiman, Director of the Centre of Islamic Studies, said: “Muslims are rarely out of the news in the West. The symposium brings together some of the best young scholars from the UK, Europe and USA to debate pressing issues facing Muslims in the UK and Europe. We hope that this symposium will become an annual event and that it will expand to bridge the gap between fundamental research and practice in different walks of life.”

Ruth Helen Corbet, from Glasgow University, will talk at the symposium about British Muslim piety and the welfare of animals for food – spotlighting three UK Islamic enterprises practising excellent welfare standards.
Corbet said the negative media portrayal over the slaughter process for halal meat was caused by the assumption that all halal meat is non-stunned and infiltrating schools, supermarkets and restaurant chains. However, she argues that according to Government figures – only three per cent of cattle are slaughtered without stunning and more than 80pc of animals used for halal meat are stunned.

“I would contend that all means of death should be labelled, to do otherwise culturalises cruelty, making one minority group of consumers appear responsible for the suffering of animals for food,” she said. “This seems unreasonable when 19 million quadrupeds and 750 million birds are slaughtered per year in the UK alone.”

Elsewhere, LSE’s Adviya Khan will report on her research into the experiences of British hip-hop group Poetic Pilgrimage, which consists of two black, female, Muslim converts, Sukina Abdul Noor and Muneera Rashida. Her work is raising the profile of black female converts whose experiences have often been almost entirely absent in conversion narratives – a discrepancy also noted by Cambridge’s Centre of Islamic Studies during its own study into the experiences of 50 female converts last year (http://bit.ly/1gqAAHm).

Khan said: “During my interviews, it became clear that racism was a lived reality for Poetic Pilgrimage – and was far from one dimensional. It came from various sectors of society, including Muslims and non-Muslims and was manifested in terms of both colour racism and Islamophobia. Black, Muslim voices are absent in media, politics and popular discussions around Islam. Poetic Pilgrimage along with other female acts is virtually invisible from mainstream Muslim TV channels, websites and events, unlike their male counterparts.”

The symposium begins with registration at noon on Friday, May 16, and continues until lunch on Sunday.
Director

Professor Yasir Suleiman, CBE, FRSE, FRCPE

Professor Yasir Suleiman is the Director of the Centre of Islamic Studies, His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Sa’id Professor of Modern Arabic Studies, and a Fellow of King’s College, Cambridge. His research covers the cultural politics of the Middle East with special focus on identity, conflict, diaspora studies and modernisation in so far as these issues relate to language, modern Arabic literature, translation and memory. He also conducts research in Arabic grammatical theory and the Arabic intellectual tradition in the pre-modern period. Professor Suleiman is Chair of the Panel of Judges, British-Kuwaiti Friendship Society Book Prize in Middle Eastern Studies (read more about book prize ceremony on 14 July 2012). In 2013 Professor Suleiman was elected as Chairman of the International Prize of Arabic Fiction (IPAF) popularly known in the Arabic-speaking world as the ‘Arabic Booker’. He serves as Trustee on the Boards of the following organisations: Arab-British Chamber Charitable Foundation, Banipal Trust for Arab Literature and is Trustee of the Gulf Research Centre-Cambridge. He is also Board Member of the Islamic Manuscript Association, Chair of the Centre for the Study of the International Relations of the Middle East and North Africa (CIRMENA), Cambridge and Member of the Advisory Board of Our Shared Future, a joint project of the British Council, USA and Carnegie Foundation. He is a member of the editorial boards of a number of journals and book series. In October 2013 Professor Suleiman was made Ambassador of the University of Sarajevo for his outstanding contribution to promoting the University internationally.

Professor Suleiman is Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE), a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, and formerly Head of the Department of Middle Eastern Studies, the University of Cambridge. In recognition of his outstanding contribution in promoting the University of Sarajevo’s international reputation, Professor Yasir Suleiman, Director of the HRH Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Centre of Islamic Studies at the University of Cambridge, was conferred with the Ambassador of the University award in the UNSA Rectorate premises on Wednesday, 9 October 2013.

Professor Suleiman’s publications include:
Arabic in the Fray: Language Ideology and Cultural Politics, 2013
Arabic, Self and Identity: A Study in Conflict and Displacement, 2011
Living Islamic History: Studies in Honour of Professor Carole Hillenbrand (ed.), 2010
Literature and Nation in the Middle East (ed.), 2006
A War of Words: Language and Conflict in the Middle East, 2004
Assistant Director

Dr Paul Anderson

Dr Paul Anderson is the Assistant Director of the Centre of Islamic Studies and the Prince Alwaleed Lecturer in the Department of Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Cambridge. He gained his PhD in social anthropology at the University of Edinburgh and his BA(Hons) in Arabic and Islamic Studies at the University of Oxford.

Research Interests:

- Social and political anthropology of the Arab world (especially Syria), particularly issues of language, agency, ethics, religious piety, trust and personhood.
- Islamic modernism
- He is currently working on a monograph on trust, intimacy and state power in the lives of contemporary traders in Syria.

Courses:

He teaches courses on the anthropology of the Middle East, the anthropology of Islam and on modern Islamic thought in the Arab world, combining an anthropological approach with a close study of modern Islamic texts in Arabic.

Dr Anderson’s research publications include:


2013 Leaving room for failure: optimism in the thought of Mohamed Talbi, in “Cambridge in Morocco”. Rabat: Editions et Impression Bouregreg


Conference and Seminar Papers:

2013 ‘The politics of scorn in Syria’, Department of Anthropology and Middle Eastern Studies, University of Manchester, February.


2012 ‘Leaving Room for Failure: Optimism in the Thought of Mohamed Talbi’, Universities of Casablanca, Fes and Rabat, April.


Reports:

2011 Reforms in Islamic Education (with Y. Suleiman and C. Tan)
2009 Contextualising Islam in Britain (with Y. Suleiman)
2008 Arabic on Campus and Beyond (with Y. Suleiman)
2007 Conducting Fieldwork in the Middle East (with Y. Suleiman)
Outreach and Project Co-ordinator

Ms Harriet Hine

Harriet Hine is the Outreach and Project Co-ordinator. She gained her MA in Art History at the Courtauld Institute of Art and her BA in History of Art and Architecture at the University of Reading. Harriet has experience of public education and administration working under the Keeper of the Asian Department at the Victorian & Albert Museum in London which has one the world’s largest collections of Islamic Art.

Administrative Assistant

Mr Philip Rushworth

Philip Rushworth is the Administrative Assistant. He holds a BA in International History from the London School of Economics and has a keen interest in the history of the Middle East and a basic level of Arabic. He has lived and worked in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Lebanon and Saudi Arabia.

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