It has been a great pleasure for me to be affiliated with the Centre of Islamic Studies (CIS) as a Visiting Fellow. As a Cambridge-based scholar I have benefited tremendously from the close relationship of the Centre of Islamic Studies with the Centre for the Study of Muslim-Jewish Relations, Woolf Institute of which I am academic director. The CMJR has a history of unique collaborations with the CIS, including a symposium on life and death in Judaism and Islam (http://www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/events-preview/detail.asp?ItemID=142). More recently, I collaborated with CIS and Dr Saeko Yazaki in organising a successful conference on Muslim-Jewish Relations during September 2011. This symposium would not have been possible without Yasir Suleiman’s vision and insight and Saeko Yazaki’s boundless enthusiasm and energy. Details may be found here:

http://www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/events-preview/detail.asp?ItemID=291
http://intertwinedworlds.wordpress.com/features/symposium/
http://www.cis.cam.ac.uk/conferences.htm

I also made brief presentations at CIS and the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies. I have also given a talk on the Prophet Ezekiel/Dhu’l-Kifl at the FAMES Research Day held in March 2011.

In addition to editing and publishing the Intertwined Worlds symposium proceedings with my colleague Dr Camilla Adang, my current research focuses on the theme of history and memory among Muslims, Jews and Christians in the Middle East. I am also working an introductory study of Pilgrimage and Pilgrims in Islam which is under commission from Edinburgh University Press.

I would like to thank our CIS colleagues for their support and collegiality, in particular Yasir Suleiman as well as Paul Anderson, Saeko Yazaki and Clare Bannister. I greatly look forward to further opportunities for collaboration over the next year.

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