



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

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مركز الأمير الوليد بن طلال آل سعود
للدراسات الإسلامية

Centre of Islamic Studies

Beyond ‘Sectarianism’? Towards an Alternative Understanding of Identity Politics and Communal Antagonism

24-25 October 2019

Woolf Institute, University of Cambridge

Enquiries to Dr Emanuelle Degli Esposti: ed530@cam.ac.uk

The University of Cambridge invites applications for a two-day interdisciplinary workshop to be held at the Woolf Institute as part of the British Academy-funded project “Beyond ‘Sectarianism?’”. Despite its prevalence in the academy and the public sphere, the term “sectarianism”, with its problematic normative and empirical assumptions, cannot do justice to the nuances and intricacies of individual and collective forms of subjectivity and belonging in the contemporary global age. In recent years, the rise of critical and post-culturalist approaches have contributed to the fracturing and fragmenting of identity scholarship, such that scholars working in different fields and from different epistemological and ontological premises struggle to find common theoretical and conceptual tools. Moreover, the study of “sectarianism” has come to be closely associated with issues of religious and communal violence, and as a result has overlooked or ignored the ways in which identity politics can contribute to forms of antagonism and belonging across a variety of different contexts.

This workshop will bring together scholars working on issues of individual and group identity in order to work towards building a common conceptual and theoretical tool kit for the study of intra-communal antagonism. Papers are welcomed from a variety of disciplinary backgrounds, including those that focus on the conceptual, epistemological, ontological, and ethical implications of the term “sectarianism”. Applications that posit new theoretical and methodological approaches, or alternative definitions and understandings of intra-communal relations and antagonism, are of particular interest.

Please submit abstracts of up to 350 words, plus a short bio (max 150 words) detailing author name, institutional affiliation, and contact information, to Dr Emanuelle Degli Esposti at the Centre of Islamic Studies (ed530@cam.ac.uk) by **30 June 2019**.

Selected participants will be invited to submit draft papers for circulation in late September. Plans for publication and future collaboration will be discussed during the workshop.

Funding is available to subsidise travel and expenses.