

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

مركز الأمير الوليد بن طلال للإسلاميات

HRH PRINCE ALWALEED BIN TALAL  
CENTRE OF ISLAMIC STUDIES



ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20

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## FROM THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR



Despite the appearance of the Covid-19 pandemic and the restrictions on in-person meetings and travel, we were able to run most of our programmes of work and many of our planned events during the academic year 2019–20 – ensuring that the Centre continued to reach large numbers of people through its research and public engagement activities.

Our three Research Associates pursued pioneering research and outreach activities, through publications, engaging with practitioners, and through public-facing events. Dr Mehrunisha Suleman continued her widely praised work with health workers and Muslim communities on the Muslim experience of end-of-life care in the UK. Dr Arafat Razzaque worked with scholars and charities to investigate the difficulties around fostering and adoption for Muslim children, and Dr Emanuelle Desposti looking at evolving conceptions of ethics and authority among Shii communities in Europe, and contributed to numerous interfaith initiatives.

Our roving Islamic Art historian, Dr Turker, along with academics and staff from Jesus College and the Centre, mounted a highly successful exhibition and symposium dedicated to the life and work of the late Kamal Boullata – details and pictures of this wonderful event are enclosed.

Our 'CIS Public Talks' open seminars continued on a variety of topics covering the Middle East, North Africa and the Levant, with speakers from academia, politics and journalism. Events took place in Rooms 8 & 9 of the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies and then latterly online via Zoom. We were delighted to host our highest ever number of attendees for the online talk on 'Lost Maps' by Yossi Rapaport in June 2020.

Sadly our flagship conference – Muslims in the UK and Europe – had to be cancelled due to the Covid crisis – we very much hope that we will be able to run an event to support early-career academics in the next year.

Outreach is a vital part of the Centre's work and a key part of our outreach activities each year is our participation in the 'Festival of Ideas'. This year we held well-attended talks on the Muslim experience of the end of life in the UK, on combatting race hate through activism and on the literary phenomenon of the 1,001 Nights.

We supported four students through our studentship programme – a vital support for many academically gifted less students at Cambridge. We had the tragedy of seeing one of these gifted students, a very promising young academic called Nourhan Nassar,

pass away during this year. Nourhan was an inspiration to those who knew her, both personally and academically. Her loss was and will continue to be felt deeply in the Centre and in Cambridge more widely.

The Centre also hosted two new Visiting Researchers whose work, on inclusive street design in Malaysia and on value-based Islamic financial institutions gave an extra width to the Centre's academic endeavours. And we were proud to co-host a book launch by our long-time Visiting Fellow, Ahmed Paul Keeler for his work on 'Rethinking Islam and the West'.

I would like to thank all of the Centre's academic and associated staff for their efforts in a very difficult year and look forward to the coming year's achievements.

**Dr. Paul Anderson**

Assistant Director, Centre of Islamic Studies  
University of Cambridge

# CONTENTS

BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION	7
ACTIVITIES	9
The “CIS Public Talks” Series	10
Public Engagement Activities	16
RESEARCH ASSOCIATES	23
Dr Arafat Razzaque	24
Dr Emanuelle Degli Esposti	27
Dr Mehrunisha Suleman	31
TEACHING AND SCHOOLS / CURRICULUM OUTREACH	33
Arabic Language Teaching Programme	34
Schools and Curriculum Outreach	34
Centre of Islamic Studies Postgraduate Studentships	35
VISITING FELLOWS AND SCHOLARS	37
PARTNERS	43
CENTRE STAFF	47



## 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 with Professor Yasir Suleiman CBE, FRSE, FRCPE as the Founding Director. It was established 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 2019/20 the Centre has played an active role in facilitating and promoting dialogue and discussion on a range of topical subjects for a wide international audience. Sadly the Covid pandemic greatly affected our programme of conferences and outreach activities from March 2020 onwards. Despite this major issue we nevertheless managed to advance the Centre's outreach and research programme with a shorter series of online talks and conferences while adhering to Government guidelines and the safety of our staff and audiences.



# ACTIVITIES

The "CIS Public Talks" Series	10
Public Engagement Activities	16



Keith Roger

## Seminar Series

### CIS Public Talks

*In this re-branded seminar series, the Centre for Islamic Studies engaged the wider, interested audience throughout the University and beyond, including journalists and academics, through a series of fortnightly meetings held between 5.15 pm and 6.45 pm at the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies in Cambridge. Following the arrival of the pandemic and lockdown measures in March 2020 we held a slightly reduced number of purely online talks in the final term of 2020.*

17 OCTOBER 2019

#### Children of the interregnum: political imagination in Egypt, Britain and beyond

**Jack Shenker, Journalist**



“The crisis,” observed Antonio Gramsci, “consists precisely in the fact that the old is dying and the new cannot be born.” As a certain vision of highly-financialised liberal capitalism founders on the world stage, fresh generations are attempting to simultaneously navigate its breakdown and build alternatives from the rubble. In the process they are being forced to confront elite gatekeepers who wield the tools of the past – be it populist authoritarianism in the Middle East, or a flawed electoral technocracy in the west – to defend the status quo. What forms are these rebellions taking, and what connections are there between their architects be they in Cairo or Cambridge?

Jack Shenker is an award-winning journalist and author who writes about politics, protest and resistance. Formerly Cairo correspondent for The Guardian newspaper, his first book ‘The Egyptians: A Radical Story’ – which explored Egypt’s revolution and counter-revolution from below – was published to critical acclaim by Penguin in 2016. His latest book, about the ongoing collapse of Britain’s political status quo and the rise of alternatives, will be published by The Bodley Head / Random House in 2019.

31 OCTOBER 2019

## Between House and Orchard: Family, Shari'a and the Making of the Modern Middle East

**Beshara Doumani, Author**



In this comparative examination of the property devolution strategies and gender regimes in the context of local political economies, Beshara Doumani offers a groundbreaking examination of how wealth transfer by ordinary people from one generation to the next has shaped the modern Middle East. Based on archives of Islamic law courts and other locally generated sources, Doumani argues that there is no such thing as the Muslim or Arab family type that is so central to Orientalist, nationalist, and Islamist narratives. Rather, one finds dramatic regional differences, even within the same cultural zone, in the ways that family was understood, organized, and reproduced. The findings challenge prevalent assumptions in public discourses about Islam, women, and modernity in the Middle East.

Beshara Doumani is the Joukowsky Family Distinguished Professor of Modern Middle East History and Director of Middle East Studies at Brown University. His research focuses on peoples, places, and time periods erased or marginalized by mainstream scholarship on the early modern and modern Middle East. He also writes on displacement, academic freedom, politics of knowledge production, and the Palestinian condition.

14 NOVEMBER 2019

## 'How Erdoğan took Turkey – and how he could lose it again'

**Hannah Lucinda Smith, Journalist, The Times**



Recep Erdogan is no ordinary dictator. His elections are won only by slivers, and Turkey remains defined by its two warring cults: those who worship Erdogan, the wilful Muslim nationalist with a tightening authoritarian grip, and those who stand behind Ataturk, the secularist, westward-looking leader who founded the republic and remains its best loved icon – now eighty years dead. Erdogan commands a following so devoted they compose songs in his honour, adorn their homes with his picture, and lay down their lives to keep him in power. *Erdogan Rising* asks how this century's most successful populist won his position, and where Turkey is headed next.

Hannah Lucinda Smith is The Times' correspondent in Turkey, where she has covered conflicts, a coup attempt and the rise of controversial president, Recep Tayyip Erdogan for over six years. During her time, she has also reported from inside rebel-held Syria, on the front lines of the battle against Isis in Iraq, and joined the mass movement of migrants on their journey to Europe in 2015.

Hannah's debut work of non-fiction, *Erdogan Rising: The Battle for the Soul of Turkey*, was published in September 2019 by HarperCollins.

***Due to strike action the last of the Michaelmas term talks were cancelled.***

23 JANUARY 2020

**Art at the Bayt al-Sadat: on local engagement with photography and interior refurbishment in Khedival Cairo**

**Mercedes Volait, Professor, CNRS**



The house of the al-Sādāt al-Wafā'iyya, located in the neighbourhood of Hilmiyya al-Jadīda in Cairo, features in a number of photographs and watercolours made in the 1860s–1880s. They attest to the engagement with portraiture and interior design of an heir of a prominent Sufi family and member of the Majlis al-Ahkām, 'Abd al-Khāliq al-Sādāt (Abū al-Futuḥat) (d. 1907). The talk will discuss how to make sense of visuality and materiality shedding light on processes barely alluded to in textual sources, such as artistic life taking place in Egyptian homes during pre-colonial times.

Mercedes Volait is CNRS Research professor at INHA (Institut national d'histoire de l'art, Paris) and heads its digital research unit on architecture, antiquarianism, and applied arts in the modern Mediterranean. Her education has been in architecture, Middle Eastern studies, and art history. She is currently interested in issues of patronage, materiality, and consumption in connection with the production of Mamluk-style architecture and design in nineteenth-century Cairo.

6 FEBRUARY 2020

**"Minoritized Arabic: Turkification Practices in the Making of 'Hatay'"**

**Yael Navaro, Senior Lecturer in Social Anthropology at the University of Cambridge**



Yael will address the targeting of the Arabic language for elimination in Turkey's process of transforming Liwa Iskenderun (the Sanjak d'Alexandrette) into 'Hatay' via annexation and re-territorialization onwards from 1939.

Yael Navaro-Yashin is Senior Lecturer in Social Anthropology at the University of Cambridge and a Fellow of Newnham College. She is the author of *Faces of the State: Secularism and Public Life in Turkey*.

***The next two talks in our series were hit by the ongoing strike action and have been tentatively re-scheduled for the next academic year.***

***The pandemic and lockdown meant that the Easter term talks could not take place in person but our speakers kindly agreed to present them online via 'Zoom' – and after the usual technology challenges they proved to be a great success – with the final talk pulling in an audience of over 300.***

14 MAY 2020

## Egypt's 2011 Uprising, Subaltern Cultural Politics, and Revolutionary Weakness

John Chalcraft, *LSE*



Explanations for the weakness and failure of the uprisings in the Arab world of 2011 range from the hard-power and structure-centred accounts of conventional political science to interactionist studies emphasizing micro-dynamics and relational mechanisms. Drawing on Gramscian perspectives, and fieldwork in Egypt, this paper aims to open up an occluded line of investigation into the subaltern cultural politics of the uprising in Egypt as a way to make sense of revolutionary weaknesses and limits. While critical researchers have studied the political economy of the revolutionary process and the counter-revolution, considered activist organizational and strategic deficits, and studied the limits on the political vision of middle class revolutionaries, less attention has been paid to subaltern cultural politics. This paper argues that the study of popular good sense against the regime and common sense supporting the army can help explain revolutionary weakness in Egypt during 2011–13.

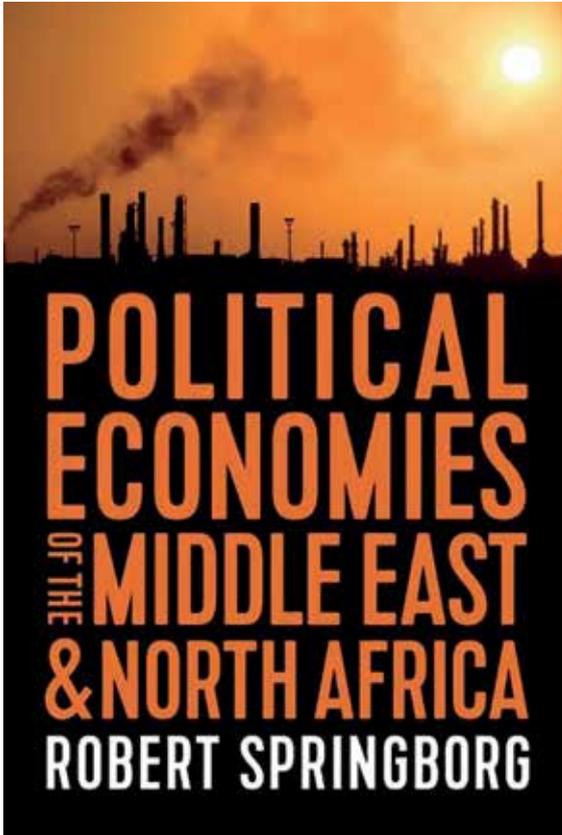
John Chalcraft is the Professor of Middle East History and Politics at the L.S.E.. He took his degree in history (M.A. Hons) from Gonville and Caius College Cambridge and then post-graduate work at Harvard, Oxford and New York University, from where he received his doctorate with distinction in the modern history of the Middle East in January 2001. He held a Research Fellowship at Caius College (1999–2000) and was a Lecturer in Modern Middle Eastern History in the Department of Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies at Edinburgh University from 2000–05.

He works on history and politics 'from below' in the modern Middle East and North Africa and is currently working on transnational advocacy and activism with reference to migrant labour rights in the GCC, Palestinian rights in Israel/Palestine, and civil and political rights in Bahrain, Egypt and Tunisia.

28 MAY 2020

## Deep States and Deep Trouble in the MENA

**Robert Springborg,**  
*Simon Fraser University, Vancouver*



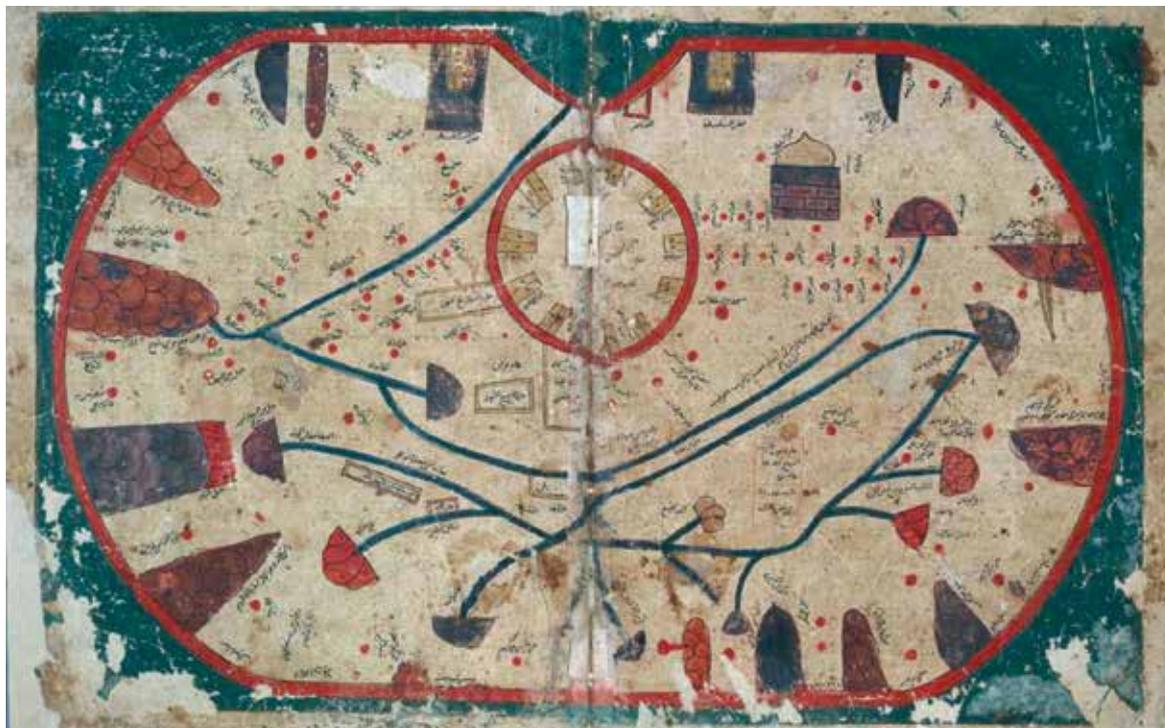
Professor Robert Springborg is Adjunct Professor, School of International Studies, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver; and non-resident Research Fellow of the Italian Institute of International Affairs in Rome. In 2016 he was Visiting Scholar at the Belfer Center, Harvard University, and in 2014 was the Visiting Kuwait Professor at the Paris School of International Affairs at Sciences Po, Paris. Until October 2013, he was Professor of National Security Affairs at the Naval Postgraduate School and Program Manager for the Middle East for the Center for Civil-Military Relations. From 2002 until 2008 he held the MBI Al Jaber Chair in Middle East Studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies of the University of London, where he also served as Director of the London Middle East Institute. Before taking up that Chair he was Director of the American Research Center in Egypt. From 1973 until 1999 he taught in Australia, where he was University Professor of Middle East Politics at Macquarie University. He has also taught at the University of California, Berkeley, the University of Pennsylvania, College of Europe (Warsaw), Canterbury University and Sydney University.

Increasing use of the deep state concept by experts on the MENA suggests that it may be more than just an omnibus conspiracy theory employed by detractors of a particular government; that it may accurately describe political reality in at least some MENA and possibly non-MENA countries; and that it may be a useful concept with which better to understand politics and even economics in those countries. Robert Springborg will excavate under contemporary MENA political economies in search of their deep states and consequences.

11 JUNE 2020

## Lost Maps of the Caliphs

**Yossef Rapoport, Queen Mary, University of London**



About a millennium ago, in Cairo, someone completed a large and richly illustrated book. In the course of thirty-five chapters, our unknown author guided the reader on a journey from the outermost cosmos and planets to Earth and its lands, islands, features and inhabitants. This treatise, known as *The Book of Curiosities*, was unknown to modern scholars until a remarkable manuscript copy surfaced in 2000.

In this talk Prof. Rapoport will give a general overview of *The Book of Curiosities* and the unique insight it offers into medieval Islamic thought. He will explain how the book helps us to re-evaluate the development of astrology, geography and cartography in the first four centuries of Islam. Early astronomical 'maps' and drawings demonstrate the medieval understanding of the structure of the cosmos and illustrate the pervasive assumption

that almost any visible celestial event had an effect upon life on Earth.

Professor Rapoport is a historian of the social, cultural and legal aspects of life in the Islamic, Arabic-speaking Middle East in its Middle Ages, from about 1000 to 1500 AD. He was trained in the universities of Tel Aviv (Israel), Princeton (USA) and Oxford, before joining Queen Mary in 2008.

His work mostly relates to the history of the Islamic Middle East under the Fatimid, Ayyubid and Mamluk dynasties. His main focus is the history of everyday life and the relatively unexplored history of women, slaves and peasants. He is also interested in the history of Islamic medieval maps. His current research is on 'Tribal identity and Conversion to Islam in Rural Egypt and Syria, 1000–1500'.

## Annual Postgraduate Symposium

*Sadly, due to the pandemic, we had to cancel this year's 'Muslims in the UK and Europe' symposium. Online options were discussed but we felt that the major benefit of the event was the informal networking that occurs in a face-to-face environment and that in the absence of this we should cancel and look forward to 2021.*

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## Public Engagement Activities

### Festival of Ideas

The Cambridge Festival of Ideas was established in 2008 with the aim of encouraging the public to explore the arts, humanities and social sciences, meet academics and students, and engage with the University via a thought-provoking and creative series of mostly free events. In the 2019 Festival of Ideas the Centre of Islamic Studies held three events:

- *Rethinking Death & Dying: Muslim perspectives on End of Life Care*
- *1,001 Things you didn't know about Aladdin*
- *Living well, Dying well.*

### Rethinking Death & Dying: Muslim perspectives on End of Life Care

15 OCTOBER 2019

**Kings College, University of Cambridge**  
**Dr Mehrunisha Suleman, Research Associate,**  
**Centre of Islamic Studies, University of Cambridge**



Dr Mehrunisha Suleman discussed the impact of faith in the way we provide end of life care. This was followed an informal discussion on the value of human life, death and dying, illness and suffering, the withholding and withdrawing of medical treatment, euthanasia and the role of spiritual/religious leaders in end of life care. It was also an opportunity for the audience to discuss their views and experiences on End of Life care and to stimulate a dialogue about this piece of research. This event was attended by members of the local community and health care professionals.

## 1,001 Things you didn't know about Aladdin

19 OCTOBER 2019

**Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies,  
University of Cambridge**  
**Arafat Razzaque, Research Associate, Centre of  
Islamic Studies, University of Cambridge**



Arafat Razzaque took a packed audience on a tour through the mysterious and often convoluted story of Aladdin from medieval Syria to Hollywood in the 21st Century. In this visually-rich presentation, he gave a tour of the story behind the story, including the question of Aladdin's place in the "Thousand and One Nights" collection of tales, also commonly known in English as the "Arabian Nights". It is a literary classic with layers of buried history, allowing us to see how people in centuries past have imagined their cosmopolitan world and unknown worlds beyond. The trajectory of the book's transmission takes us from the medieval metropolises of Baghdad and Cairo, to Aleppo and other great cities across Syria in the 16th and 17th centuries, to the thriving book markets of Paris and London in the 18th century, to the Arabic printers of Calcutta and indeed the college libraries of Cambridge in the 19th century.

## Changing the Narrative, Finding a Voice: Social Media Impact and Awareness with #TurnToLove

19 OCTOBER 2019

**Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies,  
University of Cambridge**  
**Dr Emmanuelle Degli Esposti, Research Associate,  
Centre of Islamic Studies, University of Cambridge**

Volunteer body #TurnToLove uses a combination of on- and off-line social activism to support and strengthen messages of love and unity. They recognized that online discussion and narratives surrounding victims of terrorist violence are often divisive and polarizing. This provides an important opportunity to engage with the general public and combat these harmful trends and challenges by fostering alternative narratives of love and social cohesion.

This workshop aimed to highlight how to effectively use social media to re-shape the narratives around negative events.

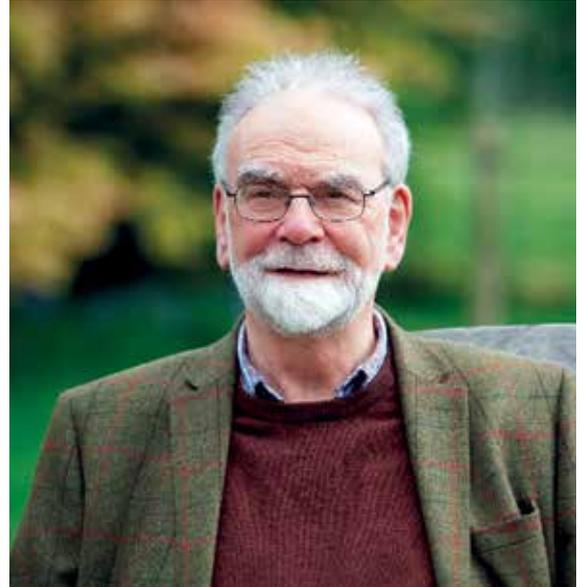
*Book Launch*

**Rethinking Islam and the West**

4 NOVEMBER 2019

**McCrum Theatre, University of Cambridge**  
**Visiting Fellow , Paul Ahmed Keeler**

The author invited a large audience to join him for the launch event of his book, *Rethinking Islam and the West*. In this thought-provoking book, we are invited to view the crises we are facing and the tangled relationship between Islam and the West through a different lens. Keeler proposes that the true yardstick for measuring success should be the balance achieved between the spiritual, social and material needs of humanity, a balance which makes it possible to live in harmony with nature. When the world is viewed from this perspective, a completely different picture of Islam and the West emerges. The event featured a panel discussion, Q&A session and an opportunity to purchase signed copies.



## Symposium

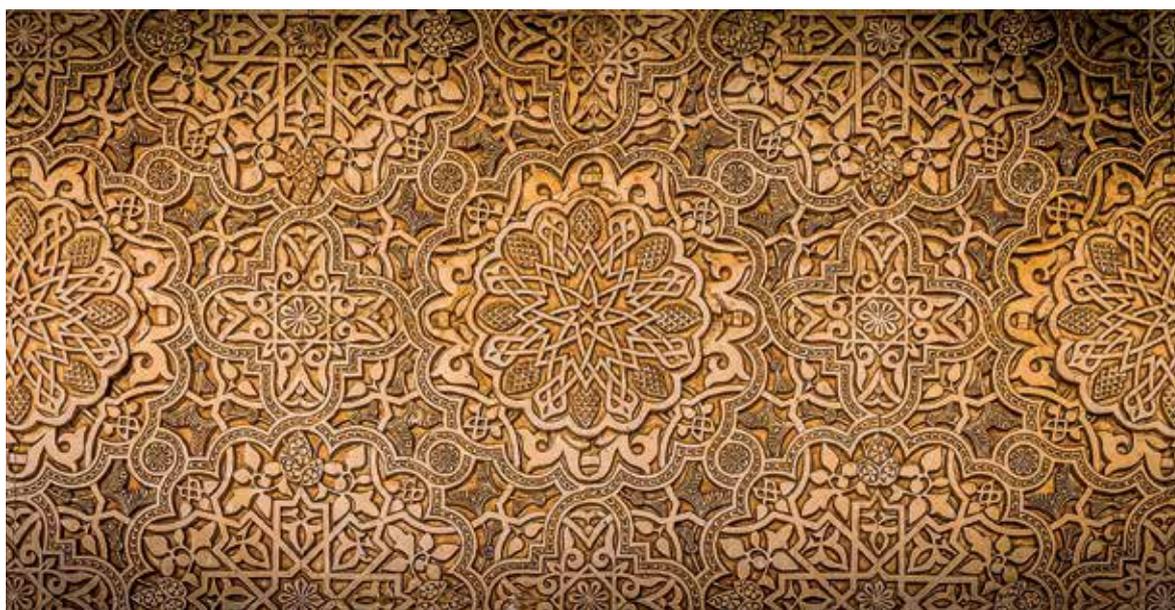
### CIS Research Day

6 DECEMBER 2019

Faculty of Asian & Middle Eastern Studies, University of Cambridge

CIS academic staff and researchers

Show-casing the research undertaken by the Centre's staff, Research Associates and Visiting Researchers and Fellows.



Time	Speaker	Topic
10:30	Paul Anderson – <i>Assistant Director</i>	A Partial Society: Theorising Inter-Asian Yemeni Merchant Networks
11:00	Will Ryle-Hodges	Being the Government's Director of Communications in Late 19th Century Khedival Egypt: Muḥammad 'Abduh on the worlds we make with words
11:30	Emanuelle Degli Esposti – <i>Research Associate</i>	Sectarian Belongings: Towards a European Shi'ism?
12:00	Nor Haslina Jafaar – <i>Visiting Researcher</i>	A framework of approaches to the Islamic principle of multicultural street design that shapes the street characters
12:30		Lunch and displays in the Common Room
14:00	Arafat Razzaque – <i>Research Associate</i>	Islamic Ethics from Medieval Society to the Modern Family
14:30	Mehrunisha Suleiman – <i>Research Associate</i>	Muslim perspectives on End of Life Care
15:00	Khaled Fahmy – <i>Director</i>	The Egyptian military in the 1967 Arab-Israeli War

## Art Exhibition and Symposium

### Kamal Boullata

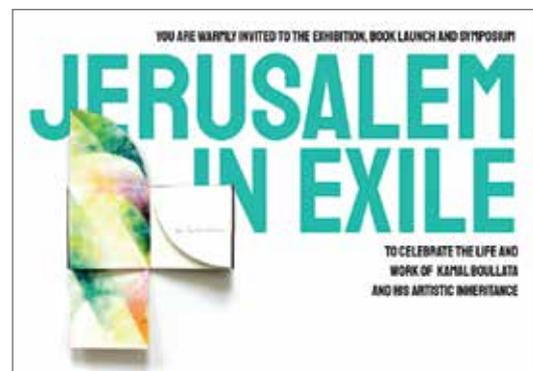
24 JANUARY 2020

Jesus College, University of Cambridge  
Co-Convened by Prof. Khaled Fahmy,  
Dr Deniz Türker, Research Associate  
and Neil Cunningham



### *Jerusalem in exile: Meaning and abstraction in Arab and Islamic art*

- 13:00 Khaled Fahmy / James Clackson / Donal Cooper / – Short introductions  
(Centre of Islamic Studies, Jesus College)
- 13:15 Elizabeth Key Fowden – Kamal Boullata: Byzantine, Islamic and abstract artist  
(University of Cambridge)
- 13:45 Claudia Tobin – An ‘operator of colours’: conversations in word and image  
(University of Cambridge)
- 14:15 Venetia Porter – Artists’ books by Kamal Boullata and his contemporaries in the British Museum  
(British Museum)
- 14:45 *Coffee Break*
- 15:00 Rémi Labrusse – Against geometry? On Matisse and the Arts of Islam  
(Université Paris Nanterre)
- 15:30 Mercedes Volait – An early Egyptian display of Islamic art at the 1867 World’s Fair in Paris: Dr. Meymar’s exhibits (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Paris)
- 16:00 *Coffee Break*
- 16:15 Burcu Doğramacı – Exiled artists from the Arab world  
(Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München; Hirmer volume editor)
- 16:45 Nasser Rabbat – Kamal Boullata: For the love of Jerusalem  
(Massachusetts Institute of Technology)
- 17:15 Finbarr Barry Flood – Kamal Boullata and the aesthetics of radical humanism  
(New York University; Hirmer volume editor – read by Elizabeth Fowden)
- Open discussion*
- 18:00 Book launch (*There where you are not and Uninterrupted Fugue*)  
Exhibition public opening and reception



*The Committee wishes to express its thanks to the generous donations by our valued sponsors: the AM Qattan Foundation, the Barjeel Art Foundation, the Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Centre of Islamic Studies and the Department of History of Art (University of Cambridge) without whose help this event would not have been possible.*

*The Committee is also very grateful to the Master, President, Fellows and Staff at Jesus College, Cambridge for their hospitality and assistance in hosting this exhibition and symposium*

***The Symposium was followed by the opening of the Exhibition***



### Theatrical Performance

#### 'Big Brother' in Cambridge

6 MARCH 2020

**Emmanuel College, University of Cambridge**  
**Co-Sponsors: Cambridge University Arab Society,**  
**Mada Masr English and Mohamed Andeel**



Big brother is an Egyptian political satire show through which Andeel, the presenter, adopts the character of 'big brother' and deals with pertinent political and social issues, both locally and globally. The event in Cambridge will be Andeel's debut in the UK. He will, whilst still in the character of 'big brother', address issues relating to academia and the history of the relationship between the UK and Egypt.

The event is organized by Cambridge University Arabic Society and supported by Prince Alwaleed bin Talal Centre of Islamic studies at Cambridge University.

The event will be in English. The organizing bodies of the event do not necessarily endorse all of the content of the play. Please familiarise yourself with the show *اخ كبير* beforehand so you are aware of the context and the setting.

### Virtual Seminar

#### Archives of a Quarantine

8 MAY 2020

**Via Zoom**  
**Professor Khaled Fahmy, Director**

Archives of the Disappeared is an interdisciplinary research initiative for the study and documentation of communities, social movements, spaces, lifeworlds, literatures and cultures that have been destroyed through acts of political repression and mass violence. Through a reading group, seminars and master classes, as well as lectures by scholars, artists, archivists, and community activists, the initiative will explore the question of 'archive' in the context of annihilation.

In this seminar Professor Fahmy explored the use of quarantine 19<sup>th</sup> Century Egypt in dealing with the cholera epidemic of 1831 and the plague epidemic of 1834–35.

A video of the talk is here:

<https://sms.cam.ac.uk/media/3219576>

## RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

Dr Arafat Razzaque	24
Dr Emanuelle Degli Esposti	27
Dr Mehrunisha Suleman	31



54

# ARAFAT RAZZAQUE



## Seminar

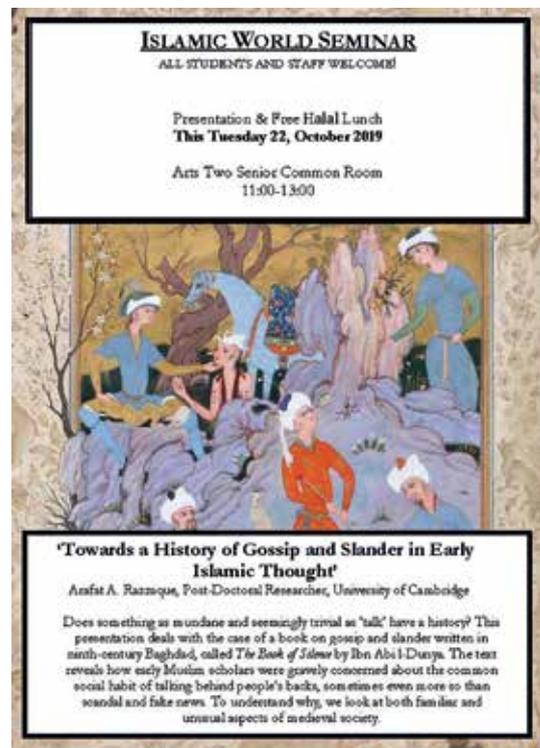
### “Towards a History of Gossip and Slander in Early Islamic Thought”

22 OCTOBER 2019

**Faculty of Divinity, Queen Mary,  
University of London**  
**Arafat Razzaque, Research Associate**

Arafat gave a presentation at the Islamic World Seminar in London.

Does something as mundane and seemingly trivial as ‘talk’ have a history? This presentation deals with the case of a book on gossip and slander written in ninth-century Baghdad, called *The Book of Silence* by Ibn Abi I-Dunya. The text reveals how early Muslim scholars were gravely concerned about the common social habit of talking behind people’s backs, sometimes even more so than scandal and fake news. To understand why, we look at both familiar and unusual aspects of medieval society.



## Virtual Conference

### Fostering Ethics: Islam, Adoption and the Care of Children

25 JUNE 2020

#### Via Zoom

Convened by **Arafat Razzaque**,  
**Research Associate**

The adoption or fostering of children represents a complex issue in Islam, and a source of common misconceptions. The topic has gained increasing attention recently, given the reality of many Muslim children in foster care and the urgent needs of unaccompanied minors among refugees and migrants of Muslim background.

This online conference brings together a number of academics and experts from the UK and abroad, to share relevant research and shed light on the issue from a variety of perspectives, including Islamic law and history, social science, and professional experience in care.



Discussions will explore the challenges and possibilities for a new ethics of care for orphaned or abandoned children in Muslim communities.

#### FULL PROGRAMME:

##### 14.00–15.30 **Welcome Address:**

Khaled Fahmy, Director of the Centre of Islamic Studies, His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Sa'id Professor of Modern Arabic Studies, and Fellow of King's College, Cambridge

##### **Session 1: Care of Children in Islamic Law and Society**

**Moderator:** Omar Anchassi, Early Career Fellow in Islamic Studies, University of Edinburgh

##### **Participants:**

- Arafat A. Razzaque, Research Associate, Centre of Islamic Studies, University of Cambridge
- Nadjma Yassari, Senior Research Fellow, Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law, Hamburg, Germany
- Nermeen Mouftah, Assistant Professor of Religion, Butler University, Indianapolis, USA
- Rositsa Atanasova, Migration and refugee advocacy expert, Sofia, Bulgaria

15:30–15:45 Comfort/Tea/Coffee Break

##### 15:45–16:45 **Session 2, Keynote:**

'The Salience of Faith to Muslim Children's Experiences of Identity, Family and Well-being in Care'

Sariya Cheruvalil-Contractor, Assistant Professor and Research Group Leader, Faith and Peaceful Relations, Coventry University

*Continued*

16:45–17:00 Comfort/Tea/Coffee Break

17:00–18:30 **Session 3: Perspectives on Fostering in the British Muslim Experience**

**Participants:**

- Tay Jiva, Social Worker and Quality Assurance Manager, UK Fostering
- David Pitcher, Family Court Adviser, CAFCASS (Child and Family Court Advisory and Support Service)

**Roundtable Discussion:**

- Sariya Cheruvalil-Contractor (moderator)
- Sonia Hamdani
- Sabbir Ahmed
- Mohammed Bashir

The event was open to the public and was also be live streamed

Questions about the conference: [conferences@crash.cam.ac.uk](mailto:conferences@crash.cam.ac.uk)

**Join in the conversation: #FosteringEthicsIslam @CRASHlive**



## DR EMANUELLE DEGLI ESPOSTI



### *Workshop*

### **“Beyond ‘Sectarianism’? Towards an Alternative Understanding of Identity Politics and Communal Antagonism ”**

24–25 OCTOBER 2019

#### **Woolf Institute, University of Cambridge**

Dr Degli Esposti convened this special workshop held at the Woolf Institute.

#### DAY 1 –24 OCTOBER 2019

09:30 Registration and coffee

10:00 Welcome: Dr Emanuelle Degli Esposti, Centre of Islamic Studies, University of Cambridge

10:05 Opening Keynote: Prof. Maia Hallward, Kennesaw State University

11:15 Tea and Coffee

#### 11:30 **Panel 1: Ways of Being and Doing Religio in Changing Contexts**

(Chair: Tobias Müller, University of Cambridge)

- The Mythological machine: Displacement and Sectarianism – Maziyar Ghiabi, Oxford University, and Billie Jeanne Brownlee, University of Exeter
- Shifting Paradigms of Islamic Knowledge: Formations of Muslim Thought in Sri Lanka – Arun Rasiyah, Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies
- The Ideational Morphology of Islamism in the Syrian Uprising – Teije Hidde Donker, University of Cambridge

13:00 Lunch

#### 14:15 **Panel 2: The Celtic Prism**

(Chair: Dr Julian Hargreaves, Woolf Institute)

- Beyond the ‘Ethno-national’ Account of the Northern Ireland Conflict: Deconstructing the ‘Two Communities’ Thesis – Patrick Pinkerton, Queen Mary University of London

***Continued***

- Then and Now: The Fine Line Between Sporting Rivalry and Sectarianism in Scotland – Sumeet Jalgaonkar, University of Dundee
  - 'Sectarianism' in Scotland's Muslim Communities, and Efforts to Prevent It – Hugh Goddard, Centre of Islamic Studies, University of Edinburgh
- 15:45 Tea and Coffee
- 16:00 **Panel 3: Minorities in a Conflicted State**  
(Chair: Dr Sertaç Sehlirkoglu, University of Cambridge)
- Ontological Security, Antagonism, Populism and Conflict in Turkey – Recep Onursal and Umut Can Adisonmez, University of Kent
  - 'Cultures without Religion': Legal-Political Sectarianism against Alevis in Turkey – Esin Caliskan, Queen Mary University of London
  - The 'Modern Karbala': Antagonistic Tolerance and Ethno-religious Difference in Turkey – Hande Sarikuzu, Binghampton University
- 17:30 End of Day 1
- 19:15 Conference dinner

## DAY 2 – 25 OCTOBER 2019

- 09:30 Coffee
- 10:00 **Panel 4: Identity –Self and Other**  
(Chair: Dr Helen Watson, University of Cambridge)
- Exploring Shi'a Militant Subjectivities and Intra-Communal Contestations among Iraq's Popular Mobilisation Forces – Younes Saramifar, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
  - 'Suicide' in Islam: A Social Constructionist Approach to Understanding Sunni and Shi'ite Ethics – Hossein Godazgar, University of Warwick
  - Political Identity or Sectarian Belonging? Examining the Case of Ansar Allah in Yemen – Eyad Alrefai, Lancaster University, and Tareq Hawari, Abdulaziz University, Saudi Arabia
- 11:30 Tea and Coffee
- 11:45 **Panel 5: Alternative Paradigms**  
(Chair: Dr Simon Mabon, University of Lancaster)
- Beyond the Beyond(s): On the (Many) Third Way(s) beyond Primordialism and Instrumentalism in the study of Sectarianism – Morten Valbjørn, Aarhus University
  - Sectarianism as Unconscious Ideology, Desire, and Subjectivity in the Discourse of "Shi'a rights" – Emanuelle Degli Esposti, University of Cambridge
  - Beyond 'Sectarianism': The Role of 'Masculism' in Shaping the Syrian Conflict – Rahaf Aldoughli, Lancaster University
- 13:15 Lunch
- 14:30 **Final Symposium: "Beyond 'Sectarianism'?"** (Chair: Dr Emanuelle Degli Esposti)
- 15:30 Concluding Remarks (Dr Julian Hargreaves)
- 15:45 End of Workshop

## Symposium

### 'Beyond "Sectarianism"? Towards an alternative framework for Understanding Sunni Shia Relations in the UK

17 FEBRUARY 2020

Al-Mahdi Institute, Birmingham

#### Overview

While Muslim communities in Britain are arguably under greater scrutiny than ever, there remains a dearth of understanding regarding issues of minority representation and diversity among Muslims from different branches of Islam. In the face of rising intra-communal antagonism, and against the backdrop of rising sectarian tension in the Middle East, there is a pressing need for more nuanced understandings of the Muslim community in the UK. Currently, no suitable conceptual language exists to explain forms of identity, conflict, and cooperation among British Muslims beyond simply reducing the specificity of their experience to the problematic concept of 'sectarianism'. This year-long, British Academy-funded project seeks to establish such a language by bringing together academics, policymakers, and community members from both Sunni and Shi'a branches of Islam for a series of three engagement and outreach events: an academics conference, an intra-faith symposium, and a public film screening. Together, these events will generate new discussions about the place and resonance of Islam and Muslim minorities in Britain.

#### Event Details

The intra-faith symposium will facilitate intra-communal dialogue between Sunni and Shi'a branches of Islam, as well as engaging policymakers in meaningful conversations regarding the place and resonance of Islam in Britain. By bringing together community leaders, members, and policymakers, the intra-faith workshop is primarily aimed at promoting dialogue and understanding between different Islamic sects, as well as establishing points of commonality regarding issues of integration and Muslim representation within British society. The inclusion of policy makers and community members thus ties into the Academy's Strategic Priority of Shaping Policy and Public Understanding, and it is envisioned that key findings from the workshop will be communicated via policy papers among strategic networks. Insights and findings from the event will also be shared via a variety of media and publication channels, thus maximising the project's exposure among the wider public. The intention is to reinforce the earlier academic conference (held at the University of Cambridge on 24–25 October 2019) – with a core network of community members now engaging with a wider, professional audience to build awareness and momentum.

#### Programme

10:00–10:30 Registration

10:30–10:45 **Introduction and welcome**  
(Dr Emanuelle Degli Esposti)

10:45–11:00 **Opening remarks: Cohesion and tolerance in the UK**(Dr Julian Hargreaves)

11:00–12:30 **Workshops** – Teams to produce 3 responses to the question "How do we increase cohesion within Muslim communities in the UK?" within these four themes:

1. Education and Pedagogy Convenor: Dr Ali-Reza Bhojani
2. Muslim/non-Muslim relations Convenor: Mustafa FieldOBE
3. State-society relations Convenor: Dr Amra Bone
4. Beyond history? Convenor: Sheikh Paul Salahudin Armstrong

**Continued**

- 12:30 –13:30 Lunch
- 13:30 –15:00 Feedback and Discussion Session  
(each team to present 3 answers and how they arrived at them –with feedback and Q&A from audience)
- 15:00 –15:30 Coffee break
- 15:30 –16:30 Closing address and Q&A: “Towards a British Muslim Identity”  
Speaker: Dilwar Hussain
- 

### Webinar

#### Becoming a British Muslim – Building Identity across the Divides”

21 MAY 2020

#### Woolf Institute, University of Cambridge

Dr Degli Esposti presented in this webinar which focused on ‘religion’ as a changing category in modern Muslim practice. Participants were

invited to share case studies from their research as a basis for discussion of the possible insights to be gained by bringing critical approaches to the category ‘religion’ to bear on our study of Islam.

The video is available to share online from the Woolf website and YouTube: <https://www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/videos/becoming-british-muslim-building-identity-across-the-divides>.

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### Report Launch

#### Faith and Belief in Cohesive Societies

21 JULY 2020

#### British Academy

Dr Degli Esposti was one of the panellists at this online event to launch the new British Academy and Faith & Belief Forum report ‘Cohesive Societies: Faith and Belief’ authored by Madeleine Pennington.

The British Academy and Faith & Belief Forum invite you to the launch of ‘Cohesive Societies: Faith and Belief’, a new report which charts social cohesion policy in the UK as it relates to faith and belief, and examines the practical impact of the faith and belief sector on communities through a series of case studies.

The report has been externally commissioned, and was authored by Dr Madeleine Pennington, Head of Research at Theos. Madeleine will present the

key findings of the report. Following this, a panel of experts will provide brief contributions, before a Q&A session with Madeleine and the panel. The event will be chaired by Professor Dominic Abrams, Professor of Social Psychology, and Director, Centre for the Study of Group Processes, University of Kent and Fellow of the British Academy.

#### Panel

- Professor Tariq Modood – FBA – Professor of Sociology, Politics and Public Policy, and Director, Research Centre for the Study of Ethnicity and Citizenship, University of Bristol; Fellow of the British Academy
  - Phil Champain – Director, The Faith & Belief Forum
  - Dr Emanuelle Degli Esposti – Research Associate, Centre of Islamic Studies, University of Cambridge; British Academy Rising Star Engagement Award for her project entitled ‘Beyond ‘Sectarianism?’”
  - Jeremy Rodell – Dialogue Officer, Humanists UK
-

## DR MEHRUNISHA SULEMAN



### **Lecture**

## Festival of Ideas

17 OCTOBER 2019

**Munby Room – Kings College**

**Dr Mehrunisha Suleman, Research Associate**

### Rethinking Death & Dying: Muslim perspectives on End of Life Care

*Dr Mehrunisha Suleman discusses the impact of faith in the way we provide end of life care.*

This was an event organised to introduce a piece of research being conducted by the Centre of Islamic Studies. The event explored recent concerns about there having been little research and outreach carried out to understand the perspectives, needs and concerns of minority groups in the UK, particularly Muslims on issues related to healthcare. The Centre of Islamic Studies was undertaking research to capture the viewpoints of health professionals, patients, families, carers and traditional scholars to develop a better understanding of what the needs are in terms of End of Life decision making from a Muslim perspective.

The informal discussion provided a summary of themes that was be covered in the research

including Muslim perspectives on, the value of human life, death and dying, illness and suffering, the withholding and withdrawing of medical treatment, euthanasia and the role of spiritual/religious leaders in end of life care. It was also an opportunity for the audience to discuss their views and experiences on End of Life care and to stimulate a dialogue about this piece of research. This event welcomed the local community, professionals and anyone who was interested in understanding better the challenges faced by the health service in meeting the health needs of minority groups and to initiate the potential opportunity for members of the audience to become involved in this piece of research.

## Publication

### When can Muslims withdraw or withhold life support?

23 MARCH 2020

#### Online

**Dr Mehrunisha Suleman, Research Associate**

Dr Mehrunisha Suleman has co-authored an article on bioethics in the *Journal of Global Bioethics*. Entitled “When can Muslims withdraw or withhold life support? A narrative review of Islamic juridical rulings” – When it is ethically justifiable to stop medical treatment?

For many Muslim patients, families, and clinicians this ethical question remains a challenging one as Islamic ethico-legal guidance on such matters remains scattered and difficult to interpret.

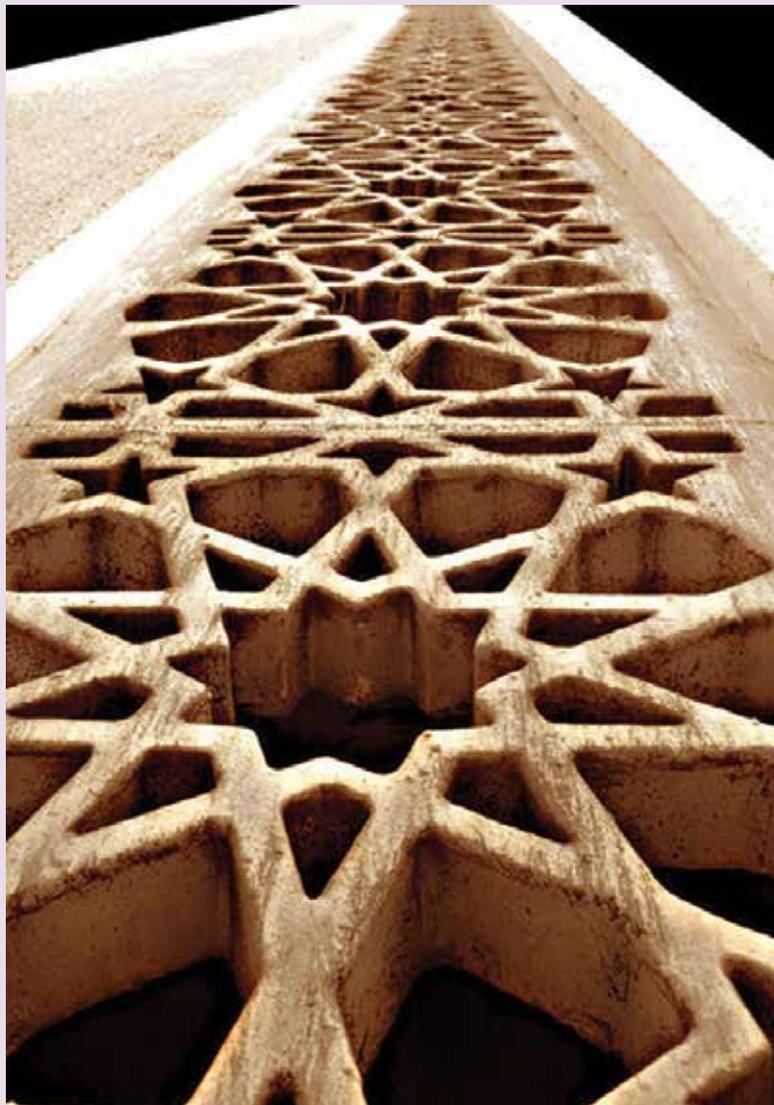
In light of this gap, we conducted a systematic literature review to aggregate rulings from Islamic jurists and juridical councils on whether, and when, it is permitted to withdraw and/or withhold life-sustaining care. A total of 16 *fatwās* were found, 8 of which were single-author rulings, and 8 represented the collective view of a juridical council. The *fatwās*

are similar in that nearly all judge that Islamic law, provided certain conditions are met, permits abstaining from life-sustaining treatment. Notably, the justifying conditions appear to rely on physician assessment of the clinical prognosis. The *fatwās* differ when it comes to what conditions justify withdrawing or withholding life-sustaining care. Our analyses suggest that while notions of futility greatly impact the bioethical discourse regarding withholding and/or withdrawal of treatment, the conceptualization of futility lacks nuance. Therefore, clinicians, Islamic jurists, and bioethicists need to come together in order to unify a conception of medical futility and relate it to the ethics of withholding and/or withdrawal of treatment.

This is available via Taylor & Francis Online <a href="https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/11287462.2020.1736243">

## TEACHING AND SCHOOLS / CURRICULUM OUTREACH

Arabic Language Teaching Programme	34
Schools and Curriculum Outreach	34
Centre of Islamic Studies Postgraduate Studentships	35



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## Teaching and Schools / Curriculum Outreach

### Arabic Language Teaching Programme

*The Centre of Islamic Studies offered Arabic language teaching to students across Cambridge University (other than those taking the Arabic tripos) whose research interests include the Arab and Islamic world. This was done in fulfilment of the mission of the Centre to engage the University community. For the Michaelmas and Lent terms we had good attendance numbers with 18 beginners, 5 intermediates and 7 advanced students.*

Unfortunately, due to ill-health, our course organiser and teacher, Shahla A Suleiman, was forced to cancel the Easter term sessions. We hope that she will be well enough to return to this task in the new academic year.



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### Schools and Curriculum Outreach

*In her capacity as Teaching and Outreach Associate, Shahla Suleiman had offered schools advice on curricula and resources, and served as a member of the Cambridgeshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE). This is a body which monitors the effectiveness and appropriateness of the religious education syllabus. Again, due to ill-health she has had to take the year out to recover.*

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## Supporting Students

### Centre of Islamic Studies Postgraduate Studentships

*The Centre of Islamic Studies runs an annual competition for graduate research studentships. These are awarded to outstanding graduate research students at the University of Cambridge whose work is connected to Muslims in the UK and Europe or Islam in the global age, and which is relevant to the areas of study of the Centre of Islamic Studies.*

Details of research studentships held in 2019–20 are outlined below.

#### **Ahmed Ezzat**

##### **PhD Student**

Ahmed Ezzat is studying the politics and history of modern law in Egypt as a paradigm of domination. He is exploring the social context in which modern law and normative legal institutions have developed since 1952 and examining their role in the aftermath of the 25 January Revolution. Ahmed is a human rights lawyer. He has a BA in law from Cairo University and LLM from SOAS, University of London.

At its heart, my research aims to explain and make sense of how Muslims negotiate the broader political context as they seep into schools to construct selfhood within the collective of nation. It is fundamentally about understanding the role Islam plays in providing a solution to the challenges of being British and Muslim and constructing a British Islam.

My research has implication for policy making within the areas of education and security. As such, my study fits with the commitments of CIS to connect research on UK Muslims with policy makers for the purposes of informing policy initiative and review. My study, with its focus on identity and citizenship making, also converges with an ongoing CIS project exploring the production process of identity and belonging of Muslim offenders."

#### **Amina Shareef**

##### **PhD Student**

Amina did her BSC in Neurobiology & Physiology at Purdue University, and followed this with her Master of Education at the same establishment. She has been involved in activism including co-founding the Stand Project in Lausanne – a local project that challenges the anti-Muslim discourse and mobilizations of the Swiss, far-right populist party, UDC (Union Democratique du Centre).

Her research looks at the impact of the discourses of community cohesion and counter-terrorism on young British Muslim sense of self and belonging:

"The key areas of interest in my study are identity and citizenship making in a global age within the boundaries of nation. I will conduct a schooling ethnography that draws on qualitative research tools such as observation, focus group interviews, and photo-elicitation to examine my research question within the spaces of schools. Broadly speaking, this study combines an interest in the interaction of the sociology of power and the sociology of emotion as it occurs within educational sites.

#### **Meredith Sullivan**

##### **PhD Student**

Meredith's study tracks the contours of gender politics in Egypt over the past decade, through focusing on personal status reform debates since 2011. Specifically, she is examining press coverage of *khul'*, as this form of unilateral, wife-initiated divorce continues to be contested –twenty years after its promulgation –and remains a central focus of public discourse on family law. Meredith is interested in personal status debates as an arena in which different visions of national public culture are articulated and contested. This is particularly relevant given the authoritarian political climate of contemporary Egypt and the limitations on what constitutes acceptable public discourse.

**Melissa Gatter (continuing research)****PhD Student**

My research examines Syrian Muslim heritage expression in Jordan's largest refugee camp, Za'atari, to reveal how residents engage in placemaking in the camp and can use heritage as a productive tool upon resettlement or return. The driving questions behind this project are as follows: What do European NGOs understand Syrian Muslim heritage to be, and how do they incorporate this understanding into their programming for Za'atari youth? How does the young Syrian Muslim refugee remember his/her heritage in interacting with these NGOs and how might his/her ideas of his/her heritage be affected by these interactions?

The aim of my research is to contribute solutions beyond Za'atari for humanitarianism to support the displaced's efforts to integrate into host communities across the world or in a new Syria by equipping young refugees with the appropriate tools to respond proactively to their situation and work toward future professions that rebuild Syrian society.

My research will also contribute to knowledge of everyday life in Za'atari, which has become both an important urban conglomeration in its own right within the region, and a critical site in the reshaping of national identity and civic aspirations within the new Syrian diaspora. I will focus on understanding the role that NGOs can play in these processes. But my work will also contribute to broader debates concerning the ways that new forms of heritage can be produced and/or resignified in contexts of displacement and through processes of conflict.

This will build on my MPhil research with Dr Paul Anderson which explored the kinds of childhood and forms of citizenship that were being fashioned by and for Syrian refugees in Zaatari in the space of the refugee camp through NGO programmes.

**Nourhan Nassar****Mphil student**

Nourhan's research is related to the history of science in modern Egypt, explored through a study of engineering textbooks in the late 19th century.

Nourhan Nassar passed away on 22 December 2019. Her sudden and tragic death has affected us all very deeply.

**William Ryle-Hodges****PhD Student**

My topic is Muḥammad 'Abduh's newspaper articles for *al-waqā'i' al-miṣriyya*. The interest of the research is in his thought and specifically in his notions of citizenship and the public sphere. The methodology is a close-reading of the text, analysing his words and concepts and how they interlink to form a prescriptive and persuasive discourse. It situates his thought in his role as a bureaucrat and journalist to answer questions about the nature of his project of reform under the 1880–1882 reformist Egyptian government of Khedive Tawfiq and how he understood this project. My work so far suggests that a significant dimension of this project was an attempt to build a bottom-up type of government wherein the governmental realm of the modern state and its legal apparatus could be intelligible to and morally and religiously meaningful for its subjects. He was trying to civilise subjects into citizens. And a close engagement with the language and concepts of the articles reveals the importance of visual motifs of public appearance, scrutiny and accountability in imagining this citizenship. These motifs, in the articles, are connected to conceptions of the public sphere, understood in terms of appearing in public and seeing and being seen within the realms of the press, bureaucracy and new public fora like clubs and literary societies.

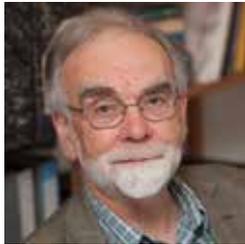
## VISITING FELLOWS AND SCHOLARS

Visiting Fellows, Researchers 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. Visiting Fellows



## VISITING FELLOWS AND SCHOLARS

### Visiting Fellows



**Mr Ahmed Paul Keeler**

Visiting Fellow at the Centre of Islamic Studies, University of Cambridge, and a Distinguished Fellow at The Faculty of Leadership and Management, Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia.

**Research Interests:** Western world cultural narratives, cultural narratives in the Muslim world, the arts of Islam, modern art.

**Research at Cambridge:** Exploring the Quranic principle of Mizan as realised in Islamic civilisation.



**Dr Julian Hargreaves**

Research Fellow, Woolf Institute, Cambridge

**Research Interests:** British Muslim communities, social science and statistics, as well as issues around diversity and equality.

**Research at Cambridge:** currently focuses on police stop and search, community responses to counter-extremism, and local patterns of intolerance across the UK.



**Mr Martin Rose**

MENA Consultant, British Council

**Research Interests:** Morocco generally, language and culture, and the interaction of faiths.

**Research at Cambridge:** The Moroccan Community in Manchester and the Trade in Silver Plate.



**Dr Ryan Williams**

Lecturer in Studies in Religion School of Historical and Philosophical Inquiry, University of Queensland, Australia

**Research interests:** The study of Islam and society and contemporary religion. Understanding the lived experiences of Muslims in connection with themes of belonging and social cohesion, piety and ethics, and state power and multiculturalism

**Research at Cambridge:** the experience of Muslims in the British Criminal Justice System.



**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.

**Research Associates**

*Research Associates are usually appointed by invitation only.*



**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 Chaoqun Lian**

Dr Chaoqun Lian is an assistant professor in Arabic Studies at Peking University, China. He received a BA and a MA in Arabic Studies from Peking University and completed his PhD in Middle Eastern Studies at University of Cambridge. His research focuses on language symbolism in the social world as is revealed in Arabic language planning and language policy (LPLP) and Arabic lexicography from the nineteenth century onwards. He is currently working on a book project that examines the phenomenon of Arabic language academies in the context of Arab nationalism(s) and peripherality of the Arabs in the modern world-system. Chaoqun is also planning to study metaphor and language ideology in the discourse of Arabic LPLP and to compare Arabic and Chinese LPLPs in relation to the notion of 'Oriental bond'. He contributes to the Chinese and Arabic press regularly on political and cultural themes.



**Dr Hawraa Al-Hassan**

Dr Hawraa Al-Hassan is an associate fellow of the Higher Education Academy, having taught Arabic and modern history of the Middle East at the University of Cambridge. Hawraa completed her PhD in Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Cambridge and gained an MA in Comparative Literature at University College London. She is interested in the cultural history of the Arab world in so far as it relates to totalitarianism, propaganda and nationalism. Hawraa's research focuses on interdisciplinary approaches to the Arab novel as a conduit of group

identities. Her current project explores Iraqi Ba’thist involvement in the production of literary and media discourses on gender and nation, whilst considering the potential of resistive ‘counter-public’ spaces, be they Islamic or secular.



**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.



**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.



**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.

## Visiting Researchers



### **Dr Hussam Eldin Mohamed Raafat Ahmed**

Dr Hussam Ahmed works under the supervision of Professor Khaled Fahmy on a research project entitled "Ruptures and Continuities: Cultural and Educational Institutions between Parliamentary (1924–1952) and Nasserite (1952–1970) Egypt." In this project, he examines the evolution of Egyptian cultural and educational institutions under Gamal Abdel Nasser's authoritarian rule. His research is designed to understand Nasser's official cultural policies and assess their enduring impact on institutions in Egypt and other Arab countries, which found a model in Egyptian institutions.



### **Dr Ruba Salih**

Ruba has a BA in Political Science from the University of Bologna and a PhD in Social Anthropology from the University of Sussex. She has a long-term interest and track record of teaching, research and publications in the fields of refugees and migration, the political anthropology of state practices and ideologies in relation to migration, gender and refugee crises, trauma and emotions, conflicts and displacement in the Middle East.

Ruba is currently finalizing a book manuscript for Cambridge University Press on: Refugees and the politics of rights and return, which will be published in 2020. Her analysis of refugees is situated in a comparative setting (Jordan Lebanon and the West bank) and is in dialogue with historical and contemporary experiences of displacement, encampment and refugee crises both in the Middle East and in the West.



### **Mr Tayyab Mohyuddin Ahmed**

Tayyab is researching Islamic philanthropy in Pakistan, focusing on how Islamic social finance enterprises manage paradoxical tensions and competing logics. Tayyab's academic background includes an LLM in Corporate Law from LSE, as well as several publications on various Islamic finance topics (2 book chapters and 8 practitioners' articles). Before Cambridge, Tayyab was an Associate Director with EY's Strategy practice, working as a strategy consultant and Islamic finance industry expert.



### **Dr Nor Haslina Ja'far**

Dr Nor Haslina Ja'far's research project title is 'Approaches to the Islamic Principles of Street Design and Multi-Cultural Characters in Malaysia: Traditional Streets as Reference'. This study addresses the concept of street design in Malaysia that is based on the Islamic design principle to satisfy the Malaysian Muslim needs. The aim of Nor Haslina's research is to establish a multicultural street design that shapes the characters of street pattern based on Islamic design principles, which uses the multicultural aspect of the traditional streets as a model or reference.



**Dr Ruhaini Muda**

Dr Ruhaini Muda is a research fellow at Accounting Research Institute, Malaysia. She is presently working on research which focuses on the development of a reporting framework for value-based Islamic financial institutions. The study addresses a growing call for delivering initiatives which truly impact stakeholders and the wider community. This is only possible if these initiatives are measured and reported in ways that support entrepreneurship, social well-being, a sustainable environment and economic growth. Towards this end, Islamic financial institutions need to measure and report the impact they make through effective and enhanced collaboration with strategic partners and stakeholders. Ruhaini's primary research interest is in the development of a sustainable social sector eco-system, with particular focus on the contributions of Islamic social capital such as zakah, waqf and sadaqa. She also works in the related area of social impact assessment and reporting.

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## PARTNERS



## 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.

TIMA holds an annual Islamic Codicology workshop at Cambridge supported by the Centre of Islamic Studies. In September 2019 this was held at the University Library in Cambridge. The Centre sponsored two students to attend: Mr. Meriç Türker Öztürk (carried over from 2018 due to delays in acquiring a visa) and Ms Siti Marina binti Mohd Maidin.



## CENTRE STAFF 2019/20



### Director

#### Prof. Khaled Fahmy

Professor Khaled Fahmy 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. He is a historian of the modern Middle East, with a specialty in the social and cultural history of nineteenth-century Egypt.

Born and raised in Egypt, Fahmy studied economics for his BA, and then political science for his MA, both degrees he received from the American University in Cairo (AUC). He then went to the University of Oxford where he wrote his DPhil dissertation on the history of the Egyptian army during the first half of the nineteenth century. After receiving his doctorate in 1993, Fahmy moved to the US where he worked first at Princeton University then at New York University. After seventeen years in the US, he returned to his home country in 2010, and joined his alma mater, AUC, as chair of the Department of History. In 2013, Fahmy returned to the US, this time as a visiting fellow at Columbia University, then as a visiting professor at Harvard University. He joined the University of Cambridge in 2017.

His research focuses on the social and cultural history of the modern Middle East, with a particular focus on nineteenth-century Egypt. He has written several books including a revisionist account of the army of Mehmed Ali Pasha (*'All the Pasha's Men: Mehmed Ali, His Army, and the Making of Modern Egypt'*), a critical biography of this towering nineteenth-century personality (*'Mehmed Ali: From Ottoman Governor to Ruler of Egypt'*) and *'al-Jasad wa-l'Hadatha (The Body and Modernity)*, a collection of scholarly articles that deal with the history of the disciplines and practices of medicine and law in nineteenth-century Egypt.

Fahmy's forthcoming book, *In Quest of Justice: Islamic Law and Forensic Medicine in Modern Egypt*, provides the first full account of the establishment and workings of a new kind of state in Egypt in the modern period. Drawing on groundbreaking research in the Egyptian

archives, *In Quest of Justice* shows how the state affected those subject to it and their response. It also illustrates how shari'a was actually implemented, how criminal justice functioned, and how scientific-medical knowledges and practices were introduced.

### **Research Projects**

#### **1967 Arab-Israeli War**

Professor Fahmy is currently working on a history of the 1967 Arab-Israeli War. The project aims to synthesise recent scholarly works on the War written by Israeli, American and European historians with the vast literature in Arabic about the War. Specifically, the project will weave together the large number of memoirs published by Egyptian military commanders with the academic literature on the War.

#### **Articles, Book Chapters etc**

Rudolph Peters and the History of Modern Egyptian Law *Legal Documents as Sources for the History of Muslim Societies: Studies in Honour of Professor Rudolph Peters* pp. 12–35 (2017)

The crisis of the humanities in Egypt *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East*, 37:1 pp. 142–148 (2017)

'Inab wa Basal: 'Abd al-Hakim 'Amir wa Qarar Insihab al-Jaysh al-Misri min Sina' fi Harb Huzairan 1967 (in Arabic) *Majallat al-Dirasat al-Falastiniyya*, 28:110 (2017)

The defeat of the Egyptian army in 67 (in Arabic) *Bidayat*, no. 17 (2017)

1967: a structural and continuing defeat (in Arabic) Khaled Mansour (ed.) *Tashrih al-Hazima* (2017)

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## 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 traders, markets and trust relations.

#### **Courses:**

Dr Anderson 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:**

- 2018 "Flirting and Frying": Ordinary Ethics in Aleppo's Bazaar. *Ethnos* 83.
- 2018 "Order" and "Civility": Middle-Class Imaginaries of Citizenship before the Syrian Uprising. *Anthropological Theory* 18(2).
- 2018 *Muslims in the UK and Europe IV* (Ed. with J.Hargreaves). Cambridge: Centre of Islamic Studies.
- 2017 *Muslims in the UK and Europe III* (Ed. with J.Hargreaves). Cambridge: Centre of Islamic Studies.

#### **Conference and Seminar Papers:**

- 2018 *Emerging Regionalisms in West Asia: the Case of Chinese Commodities in the Levant*. Paper given at "China Global: Ideas, Values, Practices" conference. University of Cologne, May.
- 2018 *Striving for wellbeing: Syrian cosmopolitanism in a diasporic context*. Paper given at Migration and Wellbeing Symposium, Koc University, Istanbul, May.
- 2018 *Transnational Nation-building: the case of Syrian traders in Yiwu*. Paper given at workshop on "Trust, Trade and Global Commodity Networks" at the University of Cambridge, Moeller Centre, February.
- 2017 *Aleppine afterlives: notions of charity, economy and personhood among Syrian Muslim merchants*. Paper given at the American Anthropological Association Annual Conference, Panel on Economic Theologies, Washington D.C., November.
- 2017 *Aleppo in China, China in Aleppo*. China Research Seminar, Department of East Asian Studies, University of Cambridge, May.

2017. *Studying Syrian Trading Networks Across Asia*. Presentation at Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Research Day, University of Cambridge, May.
- 2017 *Choosing China: contextualising Syrian and Yemeni eastward migration to Yiwu after 2011*, Research symposium on “rethinking West Asia”, University of Sussex, May.
- 2017 *Always Not Yet: Perpetual deferral, mercantile temporality and civility before the Syrian Crisis*. Research Seminar on Abrahamic Religions, Faculty of Theology and Religion, University of Oxford, February.
- 2017 *Wartime Transformations of Yiwu-Syrian Commerce: a Preliminary Account*. Trodities Research Workshop, Nordic Institute of Asian Studies, University of Copenhagen, January.



**Visiting Fellow**  
**Dr Ryan Williams**

**Selected publications**

“There’s more to life than the little bits that you read in the paper” – Muslims leaving prison talk about the layers of their lives, Williams, Ryan J., *Research Horizons* (April 2018)

Alex Buxton, Williams, Ryan J., and Alison Liebling. “Faith Provision, Institutional Power and Meaning among Muslim Prisoners in Two English High Security Prisons.” In *Religion in Prison*, edited by Kent Kerley: Praeger, in press.



**Research Associate**  
**Dr Mehrunisha Suleman**

Dr Mehrunisha Suleman is a research associate at the HRH Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Centre of Islamic Studies at the University of Cambridge. Her research involves an analysis of the experiences of end of life care (EOLC) services in the UK, from the Muslim perspective. The study will involve a systematic analysis of the views of stakeholders, such as healthcare staff, patients, families, chaplains and Islamic scholars to enable a presentation of a range of challenges and concerns that currently exist in EOLC services within the NHS.

Before joining CIS, Mehrunisha completed a DPhil in Population Health at the University of Oxford titled “Does Islam influence research ethics?” She completed a BA in the Biomedical Sciences Tripos at the

University of Cambridge, followed by clinical studies and an MSc in Global Health Sciences, at Oxford University. She has worked with Sir Muir Gray on the Department of Health's QIPP Right Care Programme. She has been involved in the design and construction of Population Based Accountable Integrated Care Systems, as well as developing an online tool for commissioners, clinicians and patient groups on health care systems design. She is co-editor of the NHS Atlas of Variation for Diabetes and Liver Disease.

She is an expert for UNESCO's Ethics Teacher Training Programme and was awarded the 2017 National Ibn Sina Muslim News Award for health. She has an 'Alimiyyah degree in traditional Islamic studies, which she was given under the supervision of Shaykh Akram Nadwi at Al Salam Institute in 2013."

During Sept 2017 – Aug 2018 she continued research (fieldwork, data collection, analysis) on "Muslim perspectives on End of Life Care" and has conducted 72 interviews to date with patients, families, healthcare staff, chaplains and religious scholars.

### **Publications:**

#### **Book Chapters**

*Forthcoming* Suleman M (2021) "Muslim perspectives on pain and suffering at the end of life. In: *Companion Volume on the Problem of suffering and Evil* T&T Clark (Bloomsbury)

Suleman M (2019) *Muslim Values and End of Life healthcare decision-making: values, norms and ontologies in conflict?* In: Eds: A Padela & A Al-Akiti (2019) *Biomedicine and Islam*. Templeton Foundation. USA

*In Press* Suleman M (2018) *Islam and the ethical aspects of care giving at the end of life* In: Ed: C Herbert (2018) *Faith in Care*. Jessica Kingsley Publications. UK

A Ahmed & M Suleman (2018) *On the Human person and the Genome Question: why the soul matters*. Accepted by the *Journal of Islamic Ethics*. Brill.

*Published* 2017 M Suleman (2017) *Biomedical Research Ethics in the Islamic Context – Reflections on and challenges for Islamic Bioethics*. In: Bagheri A and Ali KA (eds) *Islamic Bioethics: Current Issues and Challenges*. Imperial College Press (2017)

#### **Articles/Encyclopaedia entries**

*In Press* Suleman M (2018) *Harmony: Death and Dying in Biomedicine & Islam* In: Ed: D Cadman (2018) *Harmony Essays*. Harmony Project. UK

M Suleman (2018) "Hajj medicine" in *Encyclopaedia of Islamic Bioethics* Oxford University Press

M Suleman (2018) "Human Experimentation" in *Encyclopaedia of Islamic Bioethics* Oxford University Press

M Suleman (2018) "Genetic Intervention" in *Encyclopaedia of Islamic Bioethics* Oxford University Press

*Published*

Suleman M and Ahmed A (2018) *What are the Islamic rights of medical practitioners and those who are ill in Islam? How do these rights relate to contemporary medical ethics? Can this Islamic perspective help in the field of human rights?* Ed: H Hellyer (2018) Islam and Human Rights. Atlantic Council. USA

Ahmed A and Suleman M (2018) *Gender and Women's Rights in Islam*" Ed: H Hellyer (2018) Islam and Human Rights. Atlantic Council. USA

Suleman M (2018) "Conscientious Objection" in *Encyclopaedia of Islamic Bioethics* Oxford University Press



## Research Associate

### Arafat Razzaque

Arafat A. Razzaque specializes in classical Islamic thought, and the social and cultural history of the medieval Middle East. His current research lies in the areas of piety and asceticism in early Islamic tradition, religious and social ethics, and ideas of kinship and the history of the family – including Islamic family law and its challenges in the modern world.

His doctoral dissertation at Harvard University, in the joint program in History and Middle Eastern Studies, examines the development of an Islamic literature of speech ethics (*adab al-lisān*) in the ninth and tenth centuries, dealing with ideas about sin, slander and social propriety especially among the community of scholars. He has previously also worked on the reception history of the "Thousand and One Nights" tales, and continues to maintain a broader interest in popular narrative, textual cultures, and historical connections between Europe and the Middle East.

Arafat has a BA in Humanities from Yale University, an MTS in Islamic Studies from Harvard Divinity School, and an MA in History from Harvard University. He has joined the Centre in October 2018.

### **Research Articles**

"Genie in a Bookshop: Print Culture, Authorship and 'The Affair of the Eighth Volume' at the Origins of *Les Mille et une nuits*," in *The Thousand and One Nights: Sources and Transformations in Literature, Art, and Science*, eds. Ibrahim Akel and William Granara. Leiden: Brill, 2018 (forthcoming)

### **Review Essays**

"Before Europe: The Christian West in the Annals of Medieval Islam." Review of Daniel G. König, *Arabic-Islamic Views of the Latin West: Tracing the Emergence of Medieval Europe* (Oxford University Press, 2015). *Marginalia Review of Books*. April 27, 2018.



### **Research Associate**

#### **Dr Emanuelle Degli Esposti**

Dr Degli Esposti joined the Centre on November 12, 2018. A specialist in the politics and emotions of minority identities, Emanuelle Degli Esposti received her doctorate in Politics and International Studies from SOAS, University of London, where she also completed an MSc in Middle East Politics. Her current research examines the public forms of activism undertaken by Twelver Shi'a Muslims in Europe, especially those that might be said to be geared towards the cultivation of a "European Shi'ism". As well as exploring the way in which Shi'a communities view and understand themselves, the project seeks to illuminate the ongoing encounter between Islam and Europe, as well as the evolving dynamics within and between different Islamic sects. For example, she recently published an article on the "sectarianisation of space" in London for a special issue of the journal *Contemporary Islam*.

The editor and founder of online magazine *The Arab Review*, Emanuelle is also a published journalist and writer, as well as having more than six years' experience working in consultancy and intelligence analysis covering Europe and the Middle East. As a CIS Research Associate, she plans to bring together policy, grassroots, and private sector networks in order to facilitate the dissemination of the Centre's research and outreach.

In April 2019 she was selected for a British Academy Rising Stars Engagement Award for research on '*Beyond 'Sectarianism'? Towards an alternative framework for the study of Sunni-Shi'a relations in the UK*'.

### **Selected Publications**

'Shi'a Minorities in the Contemporary World: Migration, Transnationalism and Multilocality': Edinburgh University Press (2020)

'Living Najaf in London: Diaspora, Identity, and the Iraqi-Shi'a Subject.' In: O Schardbrodt and Y Shaneik (eds.) Shi'a Minorities in the Contemporary World. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, (forthcoming 2019).

'Fragmented Realities: The "Sectarianisation" of Space Among Iraqi Shias in London,' Contemporary Islam (2018) 1–27.

'The Aesthetics of Ritual: Performing Iraqi-Shi'a Identity in the Diaspora,' Politics (2018) 38(1): 68–83. Given ISSR Best Student Paper Award for 2019.

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### **Programme Manager**

#### **Neil Cunningham**

Neil Cunningham started with the Centre as the maternity cover for Ludmila. He then took over the Programme Manager role in 2018. He holds an MA in History from Cambridge and takes part in historical re-enactments around the UK.



### **Administrator**

#### **Ludmila Applegate**

Ludmila Applegate is the Administrator of the Centre of Islamic Studies. She holds a BA in philology (linguistics) from the Daugavpils University, Latvia. Ludmila has experience in administration, project and event management, having worked previously for the business language school in Cambridge.

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## Committee of Management 2019–20

Professor Chris Young  
Chair

HRH Princess Lamia bint Majed  
Secretary General of Alwaleed Philanthropies

Professor Amira Bennison  
Representative of the Faculty of Asian and Middle-Eastern Studies

Dr Christine van Ruymbeke  
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Professor David Abulafia  
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Dr Samir Anabtawi  
Academic Advisor to HRH

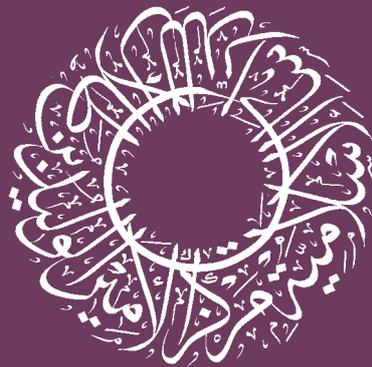
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Professor Khaled Fahmy  
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