2020-21 has demonstrated the Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Centre’s ability to adapt to new ways of working, both academically and in terms of our public engagement mission. The Covid-19 pandemic has affected every aspect of life in the University and beyond – but we have managed to maintain an almost-full programme of research and outreach activities.

The pandemic precautions made in-person outreach very difficult but our Research Associates and our Outreach Officer, Yomna Helmy, nevertheless held workshops and seminars at various schools and colleges around the country to enrich and inform education, debate and discussion about Islam and Muslims. These were held at Eden Girls’ School, London; Cambourne Village College, Cambridge; Reading Girls’ School, Reading; Jeavons Wood School, Cambridge; the East Manchester Academy, Manchester; Morpeth Sixth Form, London; and King’s School Hove, East Sussex. Yomna also provided professional development and consultancy to support teachers and educators in British schools in teaching about Islam and Muslims, provided curriculum advice for GCSE textbooks, and supported refugee workers and volunteers in Cambridgeshire and London.

Dr Mehrunisha Suleman, one of our postdoctoral Research and Outreach Associates, used her research at the Centre on end-of-life care for patients of Muslim background, to help produce a guidance document for NHS trusts, and was a key contributor to the 3rd Edition of ‘Care after Death Guidance’ for the UK Hospice movement. We are also delighted that alongside her part-time work at the Centre she took up a role with The Health Foundation as Senior Research Fellow to work on their inquiry into COVID-19.

Our ever-popular public talks series addressed political, cultural, literary and artistic issues from the contemporary Middle East and the wider Muslim world. Over the last academic year, we convened eleven talks from experts on topics ranging from a contemporary Mahdist movement in Turkey to the afterlives of the Non-Aligned Movement in the Balkans, reaching a wide and diverse audience of members of the public and scholars from across the globe.

I am delighted that the Centre again this year made an important contribution to efforts to widen access to the University of Cambridge, with Yomna Helmy and Dr Taushif Kara enthusing prospective undergraduates from less advantaged backgrounds with talks on Islam and Arabic language and culture. Our researchers made important contributions to the University’s Festival of Ideas, delivering talks and holding seminars to widen and deepen public knowledge about Islam.
Although much research activity was curtailed, we continued to convene research and writing up seminars for PhD students and early career researchers throughout the academic year. Our Arabic language training for research students is going from strength to strength, attracting high numbers of students at the University who require intermediate and advanced Arabic for research purposes. Our three Research and Outreach Associates between them managed to speak at 14 workshops and conferences and publish a number of papers in their respective fields. This was in addition to their various teaching responsibilities which continued throughout the pandemic in a mixture of in-person and online environments.

As well as running our popular ‘Public Talks’ events online, two of our researchers also started online series – Dr Gupta’s ‘From Malabar to Coromandel’ collaboration (with the Deccan Heritage Foundation and the His Highness Srikantadatta Narasimharaja Wadiyar Foundation); and Dr Taushif’s thought-provoking talks on ‘Muslim Thought in South Asia’ - with audiences reaching over 300 at peak.

We took our main conference – Muslims in the UK and Europe – online this year with considerable success – giving twelve early-career academics from around the world the opportunity to showcase their research and network with their peers and more senior staff at the Centre. In addition, the Centre co-sponsored and hosted a workshop between the 24th and 26th September on identity formation among British Muslim children and pedagogy among Muslim women educators. This workshop was led by Dr Farah Ahmed at the Faculty of Education; Yomna Helmy at the Centre; and Amina Shareef at the Faculty of Education, who is also one of the Centre’s sponsored PhD students.

Last year, the Centre provided Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal scholarships to some of the most promising graduate students working in the fields of Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Cambridge. This year the Centre was able to support two MPhil students and three PhD students working on topics ranging from law-making and legal institutions in Egypt, Jordan and Syria to community cohesion in the United Kingdom.

I would like to conclude by thanking all of the Centre’s academic and associated staff for their efforts in another difficult year and look forward to the coming year’s achievements.

Dr. Paul Anderson  
Acting Director, Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Centre of Islamic Studies  
University of Cambridge
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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 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 2020/21 the Centre has continued its role in facilitating and promoting dialogue and discussion despite the ongoing Covid pandemic. The year has moved online and the Centre has moved with it – and while some events have been, of necessity, rather reduced due to the lack of face-to-face dialogue, we have nonetheless had a successful year in terms of research, teaching and outreach across a wide variety of different fields.
ACTIVITIES

The “CIS Public Talks” Series
Public Engagement Activities
Outreach
Seminar Series

CIS Public Talks

In this 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. A year of purely online talks has shown some advantages in terms of audience reach while still managing to engage our attendees.

15 OCTOBER 2020

Defeated Revolutionaries, Lasting Legacies: the social afterlives of revolution in Dhufar, Oman

Dr Alice Wilson

What are the legacies of a defeated revolution? Prevailing narratives depict defeated revolutions as examples of successful counter-insurgency campaigns. This project’s ethnographic research with former revolutionary families from the liberation movement of Dhufar, Oman (active 1965-1975), nevertheless shows how, forty years on, ex-militants and relatives use kinship and mundane socialising to reproduce revolutionary networks and values of social egalitarianism. Foregrounding the social afterlives of defeated revolution, this research contributes to a counter-history of defeated revolutionaries. The project highlights the limitations of post-conflict patronage to win and change hearts and minds, and the potential of family and everyday relations during and after revolution to challenge dominant norms.

Alice Wilson is Senior Lecturer in Social Anthropology at the University of Sussex. Her research focuses on transformations of the relationship between governing authorities and governed constituencies in revolutions and liberation movements in the Middle East and North Africa. She is author of Sovereignty in Exile: a Saharan liberation movement governs (Pennsylvania, 2016).
Theologizing the Past, Inscribing the Future: Anatomy of a Mahdist Movement

Dr Serkan Yolacan

Followers of Fethullah Gülen, a self-exiled cleric accused of plotting the Turkish coup attempt of 2016, are buried under a cacophony of labels: ‘moderate Muslims,’ ‘pioneers of interfaith dialogue,’ ‘American stooges,’ and ‘sedition infiltrators.’ Much less known to the outsiders but more captivating to the followers is another debate: Could Gülen be the awaited Mahdi, the eschatological redeemer of Islam? If so, how does one read the signs of him being the savior? In following the signs, I shift the focus from Turkey to the Caucasus, where the movement gained prominence for bringing former Soviet citizens back into the fold of Islam after seventy years of communist rule. Seen from there, Gülen appears as only the latest in a long line of religious figures who, by crossing into the Caucasus, climbed the spiritual ladder toward a holier status. Drawing on ethnographic work in the Caucasus with those who read the signs, tracing them further in the esoteric texts that inspired Gülen, and reading them in relation to Mahdist movements in the past, I recast Gülen as a messianic figure and demonstrate how old imperial frontiers, such as the Caucasus, become fertile grounds for messianic imagination. In the frontier, horizontal mobility leads to vertical ascension in spiritual rank and generates a form of authority—that haunts political centres from the periphery.

Dr Serkan Yolaçan is an assistant professor of anthropology at Stanford University. In his research, Serkan combines broad space and deep history empirically, and history and anthropology methodologically, to generate geo-historical frames that speak to questions of human mobility, international order, and state expansionism, past and present.

The Barbaric Science of Civilised Company: Revisiting the Perennial Crisis of the “Science” of Things Political

Dr. Abdelwahab El-Affendi, Visiting Fellow

Political science has struggled with a series of existential crises that accompanied its birth and continue to plague it. Recent developments, including the failure to predict the Arab revolutions and the populist tide in the West, have again highlighted these problems, and provoked serious debates that revisited old contests about the “scientific” pretences of the discipline, its claims to objectivity and its Eurocentrism. In this talk, it is argued that these failures to spot emerging trends are not incidental, and are inherent in the nature of the discipline itself. It dismisses defensive “explanations” of these failures, including claims that predictions are impossible anyway, and are not part of the job description, or ascribing the problem to methodological shortcomings. It seeks to show that the discipline has a built-in “barbaric” streak linked to its continuing role as the handmaiden of policy and its colonial history. Linking recent critiques about the inherent racism and evolving nationalism that plagued the American branch of the discipline since its origins, to critiques of Middle Eastern Studies and their “Orientalist” tendencies, it highlights the way experts colluded with policy makers to condone the genocidal policies of the Syrian and Iraqi regimes, and the marginally different brutality of other regional despots. When genocide turns from a taboo to a valid policy option, with many not even noticing, we seem to have a problem.

Abdelwahab El-Affendi is Professor of Politics, Provost and Acting President of the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies, Qatar.
This presentation brings an anthropology of ethics to bear on a case of forced migration and displacement among Syrian refugee women in Jordan. This case reveals how projects of Islamic self-making in displacement become “emplacement” processes within the new state-mediated context. This case reveals that Syrian women in Jordan engage in Islamic self-making as part of their wider emplacement practices by operating more publicly in the material world through Islamically-inspired actions and rituals than in Syria. Using focus groups and interviews from urban Jordan and a Syrian refugee camp, this paper focuses on these practices of Islamic self-making that serve an important role in the projects of moral emplacement for Syrian women in the Jordanian context.

Dr Tobin is an anthropologist focusing on Islam, economic anthropology, and displacement / migration in the Middle East and East Africa. Her work explores transformations in religious and economic life, identity construction, and personal piety. She also examines the intersections with gender, Islamic authority and normative Islam, public ethics, and Islamic authenticity. Her latest research projects examine these questions with Syrian refugees in Jordanian camps of Za’atari, Azraq, and Cyber City, and in Results-Based Financing in Tanzania.
This paper considers the relevance of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in the context of grassroots solidary responses to the geopolitics of borders and mobility along the so-called ‘Balkan route’. It focuses on the encounters between the unauthorised movement of people across borders, and on localised solidarities emerging from such encounters. Specifically, it ethnographically probes the role personal experiences with NAM have played in fostering such solidarities. Dr Henig focuses on two biographic fragments, two life histories, two generations, each reflecting a different experience with NAM and its afterlives. In turn, this paper interrogates how these NAM experiences and imaginings can create political solidarities that emerge and are enacted ‘not so much above or below the nation-state [and its borders] as alongside it’ (Malkki 1998: 436) in our contemporary moment.

This focus on the ongoing grassroots reverberations of NAM in the lives of individuals and communities can help us to provincialise and historicise the self-serving parochialism of the hegemonic EU-centric debates on the dynamics of mobility and migration in the buffering zones along Europe’s borders. Furthermore, these reverberations call into question the hegemonic geopolitical discourses associated with the Cold War and its aftermaths. Ultimately, this paper probes whether NAM’s reverberations offer a vocabulary of what Fernando Coronil described as ‘nonimperial geohistorical categories’ with which we can provincialise these hegemonic discourses, and engage with omitted histories of the Cold War and global interconnections and solidarities it created.

David Henig is Associate Professor of Cultural Anthropology at Utrecht University. He earned his PhD in Social Anthropology in 2011 from Durham University, United Kingdom. Before coming to Utrecht, he held appointments at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London, and the University of Kent. Since 2015, he has edited the journal History and Anthropology.
Genealogy, Critique, and Decolonization: Ibn Khaldun and Moving Beyond Filling the Gaps

Dr Sertac Sehlikoglu, University College London

The aim of this paper is to locate critique at the intersections of the genealogy of knowledge in anthropological thinking and decolonizing movement. The paper approaches to decolonizing movement as one of the most crucial points in anthropological thinking, as long as it can go beyond filling the gaps in genealogies by engaging with non-Eurocentric scholarship and, additionally, by carrying the critical angles to the ways it engages with those non-Eurocentric scholarships.

To illustrate, it uses the case of Ibn Khaldun, an Arab scholar of social sciences and historical analysis from 14th Century who is often referred to as the first sociologist. On the one hand, his influence in classical Western thinking is largely dismissed. On the other hand, as a counter-response to this dismissal, the new Islamic revivalist intelligentsia in the Muslim right engage with him in a selective manner that not only rejects that central critical thinking, but, even worse, sanctions the local regimes of power, including that local canon. By locating his scholarship to multiple tropes in anthropological theory and reading his evolutionist thinking vis-à-vis the post-colonial literature in anthropology and sociology, I question the limits and possibilities of critical thinking within and beyond the decolonizing movement.

Dr. Sertaç Sehlikoglu is a Senior Research Associate at the UCL Institute for Global Prosperity. She is the Primary Investigator, ERC Starting Grant, “Imaginative Landscapes of Islamist Politics Across the Balkan-to-Bengal Complex”, and the author of Working Out Desire: Women, Sport, and Self-Making in Istanbul.

‘Policing Infitah’: Economic Liberalisation, Security and Social Order in Egypt.

Michael Farquhar

This article draws on a previously unexplored trove of writings authored by Egyptian police officers since the mid-twentieth century to shed new light on how policing has figured in the consolidation of late capitalist social order in the Global South. These source materials reveal shifts in the ways in which Egyptian police commentators framed the relationship between economic development, policing and public order prior to and after the advent of economic liberalisation in the 1970s. Under the broadly socialist regime that preceded liberalisation, officers projected a set of ideals which implied that policing had only an auxiliary part to play in the making of a sustainable social order. In contrast, discourses articulated by their counterparts after the advent of liberalisation came to situate policing as central to the production and maintenance of market society. Unpacking these discourses serves to underline two points with analytical implications beyond Egypt’s borders. Firstly, efforts to understand how policing figures in the politics of economic liberalisation in the Global South must avoid isolating the question of repressive violence. Instead, it is important to consider how overt violence may intersect with broader dimensions of police work in the production of capitalist social order. Secondly, historicising policing as a locally-situated discursive field offers bases for moving beyond one-size-fits-all notions of “neoliberal penalty” or the “neoliberal police state”.

Michael completed his PhD in the Department of Government at the London School of Economics and Political Science and holds an MA in Near and Middle Eastern Studies from the School of Oriental and African Studies and a BA in Philosophy from the University of Cambridge. He has been an LSE Fellow and a Leverhulme Early Career Fellow in the Department of Politics and International Studies at SOAS.
11 MARCH 2021

Inter-Asia’ through Inland Eyes: Afghan Trading Networks across Land and Sea

Professor Magnus Marsden, University of Sussex

This presentation demonstrates the significance of long-distance networks formed by traders from Afghanistan and Central Asia to the forging of present day transregional connections within Asia. It identifies two corridors of connectivity authored by these traders: a ‘Eurasian corridor’ connecting East Asia to post-Soviet Eurasia and extending into Western Europe and a ‘West Asian corridor’ involving traders originally from Central Asia linking East Asia to Turkey and the Arabian Peninsular. Empirically, the paper documents and analyses the varying cultural and political orientations of traders operating along these networks, and ways in which specific nodes in the networks contribute to their activities as a whole. Conceptually, the papers suggests that recent work in the expanding field of Indian Ocean studies would benefit from a greater recognition of the intersections between land and sea networks.

Magnus Marsden is Professor of Social Anthropology and Director of the Asia Centre at the University of Sussex. He has conducted fieldwork in Muslim Asia, especially Pakistan and Afghanistan for over twenty years. His publications include Living Islam (Cambridge, 2005), Fragments of the Afghan Frontier (Hurst/Oxford, 2012), Trading Worlds (Hurst/Oxford, 2016), and Beyond the Silk Road (Cambridge, 2021).

20 MAY 2021

Global Jihad – A Brief History

Glenn E. Robinson, Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California

Global Jihad tells the story of four distinct jihadi waves, each with its own program for achieving a global end: whether a Jihadi International to liberate Muslim lands from foreign occupation; al-Qa’ida’s call to drive the United States out of the Muslim world; ISIS using “jihadi cool” to recruit followers; or leaderless efforts of stochastic terror to “keep the dream alive.” Robinson connects the rise of global jihad to other “movements of rage” such as the Nazi Brownshirts, White supremacists, Khmer Rouge, and Boko Haram. Ultimately, he shows that while global jihad has posed a low strategic threat, it has instigated an outsized reaction from the United States and other Western nations.

Glenn E. Robinson is on the faculty at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California, and is affiliated with the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at the University of California, Berkeley. He has served as an expert advisor to USAID and the US Department of Defense.
The New Geopolitics of the Middle East – Back to the Future?

Dr Hisham Hellyer, The Royal United Services Institute (London) and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (DC)

The wider Middle East has seen over the last two decades a variety of shifting poles of influence, and even more differing ideas as to what those poles are. Some have posited the ‘Sunni Alliance’ against the ‘Shia Crescent’; others have posited different, less essentialist labels. Following the beginning of the Arab Uprisings in 2011, yet more groupings were formulated in terms of analysis, describing the region as divided between states that were pro-revolution, and those that were anti-revolution; while other analysis insisted that such generalisations missed glaring contradictions. In recent months, yet more shifts have taken place regionally, particularly against the backdrop of a new American administration, and knock-on effects among American allies in the region, which have preceded other moves. Dr HA Hellyer, offers his own thoughts and reflections at what is truly at the base of these shifts, and how they all connect to an overarching question of ‘unfinished business’ in the aftermath of the colonial era in the region.

A Carnegie Endowment scholar and author focusing on politics, international studies & religion, in the West and the Arab world, Dr H.A. Hellyer FRSA is Senior Associate Fellow in International Security Studies at the Royal United Services Institute and visiting Fellow at Cambridge University’s Centre for Islamic Studies, based between London and DC. He is currently on the steering committee for a multi-year EU project on “Radicalisation, Secularism and the Governance of Religion”, which brings together European, North African, and Asian perspectives with a consortium of 12 universities and think-tanks. Dr Hellyer was a nonresident Fellow at the Centre for Middle East Policy at the Brookings Institution in DC and Research Associate at the JFK School of Government at Harvard University. Dr. Hellyer has published widely - his main area focuses remain the West, and the Arab world. He has authored several books and monographs, and has contributed more than 25 book chapters and journal articles to various presses.

This event is being co-hosted by the Centre for Geopolitics, University of Cambridge.
Annual Postgraduate Symposium

After last year’s cancellation we were determined to hold a symposium regardless of obstacles. Due to the ongoing pandemic mitigation issues we had to hold this year’s event online but none the less we were able to provide a successful forum in which 12 early-career academics covered a range of topics from Salafism to British Muslims in Bulgaria. The symposium took place in 17 June and we were lucky to have one of our Visiting Fellows, Dr Hisham Hellyer, to give the keynote.

Muslims in the UK and Europe Postgraduate Symposium 2021

PROGRAMME: 17TH JUNE 2021

Centre of Islamic Studies, University of Cambridge

After the keynote, sessions comprised two panels running in parallel.

08.30: Zoom session opens for virtual registration.

09.00: Welcome by Dr Paul Anderson, Acting-Director, Centre of Islamic Studies.

09.05: Keynote by Dr Hisham Hellyer

The keynote speech was given by Dr H.A. Hellyer, senior associate fellow of the Royal Institute (RUSI) in London and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington DC. A visiting fellow at the Centre, Dr Hellyer’s talk revolved around the Muslim-European presence, current and future challenges.
10.00: **Panels 1 and 2:**

**Panel 1 – Exclusion and Identity** (Chair: Dr Julian Hargreaves; Mentor: Taushif Kara).
- Samir Sweida-Metwally, University of Bristol - Ethnic inequalities and the Muslim penalty in the British Labour Market
- Muhammad Babacan, University of Bristol - ‘My skin colour is white…Islamophobia is their concern not ours’: Deflective identity strategies among young Turks in Britain

**Panel 2 – Securitisation and Islamophobia** (Chair: Dr Paul Anderson).
- Amina Shareef, University of Cambridge - ‘Besieged life: Muslim female life during the War on Terror
- Marta Panighel, University of Genoa - ‘Facing Gendered Islamophobia through social activism - The case of “Your Muslim Sisters Chitchat”
- Ugo Gaudino, University of Kent - The French Socialist Party between securitization of Islam and Islamo-Leftism

11.30: Lunch break

13.00: **Panels 3 and 4:**

**Panel 3 – Authority and Subjectivity** (Chair: Dr Julian Hargreaves; Mentor: Emanuelle Desposti)
- Iman Dawood, London School of Economics and Political Science - Re-Thinking “Lived” Salafism: Contradictory Experiences within London’s Salafi Communities
- Fabian Spengler, Tel Aviv University - Religious Authority for European Muslims
- Nana Ellen Amer, University of Copenhagen - Mediating Muslim Gender Norms: Independent and Mosque-affiliated Muslim Online Actors in Denmark

**Panel 4 – Diaspora and Mobility** (Chair: Dr Paul Anderson; Mentor: Taushif Kara)
- Sabah Khan, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi - Identification and Transnational Connections of Muslim Diaspora Communities in Britain
- Laura Sani, Hamad bin Khalifa University, Doha, Qatar – Multicultural perspectives in a monocultural environment: The case of female British Muslims navigating their religiosity in Bulgaria

14.30: Tea and Coffee

14.45: **Plenary Session** (Dr Paul Anderson and Dr Julian Hargreaves)

15.30: **Symposium ends**
Public Engagement Activities

Cambridge Festival

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 wake of the Covid pandemic the Festival changed focus and re-titled itself as ‘The Cambridge Festival’ – now encompassing both the Festival of Ideas and the Science Festival.

In the 2021 Cambridge Festival the Centre of Islamic Studies held two events:

- Charity and activism in Shiism: How grassroots are changing the face of British Shiism
- Minority Questions.

Charity and activism in Shiism: How grassroots are changing the face of British Shiism

30 MARCH 2021

Online via Zoom

Dr Emmanuelle Degli Esposti, Research Associate, Centre of Islamic Studies, University of Cambridge

Charity and good works are inherent in Islam - in this event a number of grassroots organisations will talk about their charitable work and their activism to bring about societal changes. This event brings together Shi’a Muslim activists and thinkers to speak about how their faith inspires them to give back, and what kinds of lessons might Shi’a forms of charitable activism be able to teach wider society in our hyper-connected and globalised modern world.

Confirmed speakers include members of global social justice network Who is Hussain?, and Dr Rebecca Masterton, author of Shi’i Spirituality for the Twenty-first Century.
Minority Questions

31 MARCH 2021

Online via Zoom

Taushif Kara, Research Associate, Centre of Islamic Studies, University of Cambridge

It has become increasingly difficult to escape the language of numbers and the logic of demography in contemporary politics globally. Islam, despite its global reach and character, is often reduced to the conceptual category of the “minority”. Moving beyond narrowly conceived debates about integration or assimilation, this panel brings together researchers from different disciplinary backgrounds to discuss how Muslims themselves address the question of the “minority” in different contexts. How did Muslims in India, for example, conceive of their place within the nation during the intellectual ferment of the colonial period? How did minorities within Islam, such as the Twelver Shi’a or the Ismai’ili, cultivate their own shifting subjectivities?

Three early career researchers from the University of Cambridge will present elements of their work and engage in a moderated discussion via Zoom.

Presenters:

Emanuelle Degli Esposti is a Research Associate at the Centre of Islamic Studies. 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”.

Taushif Kara is a Research Associate at the Centre of Islamic Studies at the University of Cambridge. His research focuses on the intellectual history and migration of the diasporic Khoja community across the Indian Ocean. He is also interested in the relationship of ideas to aesthetics in the postcolonial world, especially architecture.

Amar Sohai is an Early-Career Research Fellow in Politics and International Studies at Corpus Christi College, University of Cambridge. An intellectual historian of modern India and Pakistan, Amar is interested in those ideas that continue to shape contemporary politics in both countries.
Outreach

Sutton Trust Summer School

2–6 AUGUST 2021

Various Locations, University of Cambridge
Taushif Kara and Yomna Helmy

We received great feedback from all students as many of their essays reflect on how much they’ve enjoyed individual lectures/seminars and how much they’ve learned from the teaching.

“Tausal and Yomna spent a great week teaching about the Arab World’s history, culture, and languages as well as global Islam at this year’s Sutton summer school. It was a fantastic experience working with Assef, Heather, and the brilliant colleagues from AMES.

“I was honestly blown away as this past week has exceeded all my expectations”.

“the lectures and seminars on the course this week … have opened my eyes to ideas and concepts I had never even considered before”

“it was the lectures on the History of the Modern Arab World held by Yomna Helmy that stuck with me the most”

“the most exciting seminar I could have ever attended was the one delivered by Taushif Kara on Thursday, regarding Global Islam”
RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

Vivek Gupta  xx
Dr Emanuelle Degli Esposti  xx
Dr Mehrunisha Suleman  xx
Taushif Kara  xx
VIVEK GUPTA

Seminar

The Medieval Indian Ocean

25 NOVEMBER 2020

(Webcast event)

Vivek Gupta, Research Associate and Elizabeth Lambourn (De Montfort University)

Vivek took part in an online debate, “Transmission and Makers of the Islamicate Cosmography in India” at the Cambridge Centre of South Asian Studies Seminar with Elizabeth Lambourn, expert on the history of the Medieval Indian Ocean.

Conference

To Whom do the Mughals Belong? Unruly Nomenclatures, Vanishing Histories, and the Vulnerability of Islamicate Art of South Asia

10-13 FEBRUARY 2021

Vivek Gupta, Research Associate

Dr. Tamara I. Sears, Associate Professor, Rutgers University

Dr. Alka Patel, Associate Professor, The University of California, Irvine

“To Whom do the Mughals Belong? Unruly Nomenclatures, Vanishing Histories, and the Vulnerability of Islamicate Art of South Asia,” Toward a Critically Activist Art History in South and Southeast Asia, Co-chaired by Alka Patel and Tamara Sears, College Art Association. [Moved to independent platform due to CAA rules]
Virtual Conference Series

From Malabar to Coromandel

Via Zoom
Convened by Vivek Gupta in collaboration with the Deccan Heritage Foundation and HH Sri Srikantadatta Narasimharaja Wadiyar Foundation, Mysore

The seminars and lectures co-organized by the Deccan Heritage Foundation, the Centre of Islamic Studies at the University of Cambridge, and the HH Sri Srikantadatta Narasimharaja Wadiyar Foundation, Mysore, presenting the pioneering work of scholars in various cultural fields from both the Northern and Southern Deccan regions of India.

From Malabar to Coromandel – Season 1
NOVEMBER 2020 TO MARCH 2021

NOVEMBER 13

The Architecture of a Deccan Sultanate: Courtly Practice and Royal Authority in Late Medieval India

Pushkar Sohoni (IISER Pune)

Discussants: Marika Sardar (Aga Khan Museum) and Vivek Gupta (University of Cambridge) (Book Discussion)

Pushkar Sohoni is an architect and architectural historian. Trained as a conservation architect, he received his doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania in 2010. He has written extensively on the architectural and social history of the medieval Deccan, with special interests in archaeology and numismatics. He teaches at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune.

Marika Sardar is Curator at the Aga Khan Museum, having previously worked at the Museum of Islamic Art in Doha, Qatar, the San Diego Museum of Art, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Major exhibitions include Interwoven Globe (2013), focusing on the worldwide textile trade from the 16th-18th century; Sultans of Deccan India, 1500-1750 (2015), examining the artistic traditions of the Muslim sultanates of central India; and Epic Tales from Ancient India (2016), looking at narrative traditions and the illustration of texts from South Asia.

Dr Vivek Gupta is Postdoctoral Associate in Islamic Art (2020-2023) at the Centre of Islamic Studies at the University of Cambridge where he is also affiliated with Jesus College. He completed his PhD at SOAS, University of London, with a thesis entitled, Wonder Recoriented: Manuscripts and Experience in Islamicate Societies of South Asia (ca. 1450–1600).
‘Art and Architecture of the Badami Chalukyas’

George Michell (Architectural Historian, DHF)

Dating from the 6th to 8th centuries, the Hindu and Jain temples of the Chalukyas of Badami, in the heartland of the Deccan, are unrivalled in India for their comparatively early date and unusually complete condition. Chalukya temples are of outstanding interest for their transition from rock-cut techniques, as in the cave-temples at Badami and Aihole, to structural building, as at Mahakuta and Pattadakal. These sites are unique for their mingling of architectural styles, with southern Indian and northern Indian monuments being built next to each other. Furthermore, Chalukya temples are embellished with a rich repertory figural and decorative carvings that among the highlights of Deccan sculptural art. All these features will be illustrated and discussed in the webinar to be given on Friday 27 November by George Michell, who began his documentation of the Chalukya monuments no less than 50 years ago.

George Michell obtained his Ph.D. from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, for his dissertation on Early Chalukya temple architecture. Since then his research has ranged from surveys of town planning and Islamic buildings to studies of Hindu temple architecture and sculpture. During the 1980s and 1990s he and Dr. John M. Fritz co-directed an extensive survey of Hampi-Vijayanagara.

India in the Persianate Age: 1000—1765

Richard M. Eaton (University of Arizona)

Discussants: Alka Patel (UC Irvine) and Roy Fischel (SOAS, University of London) on at 16.00 GMT (Book Discussion)

Dr. Eaton is Professor of History and a leading scholar in India studies. Dr. Eaton’s research focuses on the social and cultural history of pre-modern India (1000-1800), and especially on the range of historical interactions between Iran and India, and on Islam in South Asia. He has published monographs on the social roles of Sufis (Muslim mystics) in the sultanate of Bijapur (1300-1700), on the growth of Islam in Bengal (1204-1760), on the social history of the Deccan from 1300 to 1761, and on the use memory, architecture, and material culture in understanding contested sites on the Deccan plateau between 1300 and 1600. Most recently, he has published a textbook on India’s middle period titled India in the Persianate Age, 1000-1765 (Penguin books, 2020).

‘The Square and the Rectangle: Design Transformations and Architectural Renovation between the 14th-16th Centuries in Vijayanagara’

Annapurna Garimella (Art, Resources and Teaching Trust)

Dr. Annapurna Garimella is a designer and an art historian based in Bangalore. Having completed her B.A. from California State University, she went on to earn her M. Phil and Ph.D from Columbia University, New York. She heads Jackfruit, an organisation with a specialised portfolio of design, research and curatorial projects. She is also founder of Art, Resources and Teaching Trust, a not-for-profit organisation that runs a public art library, conducts independent research projects and does teaching and advisement for college and university students and the general public.
JANUARY 8

The Courts of the Deccan Sultanates: Living Well in the Persian Cosmopolis

Emma Flatt (UNC Chapel Hill)

Discussants: Evrim Binbaş (University of Bonn) and Subah Dayal (NYU Gallatin (Book Discussion))

Emma Flatt’s research has focused on mentalities and practices in the courtly societies of the Indo-Islamicate Deccani Sultanates of South India. Her doctoral thesis, which she is currently revising for publication, explored the world of the peripatetic courtier, who moved across regions and between courts in search of generous patrons and focuses on three case studies of different “knowledges” that helped a courtier attain success: letter-writing, wrestling, and astrology. These three case studies illustrate the ways in which the acquisition of expertise in a particular knowledge provided the courtiers with opportunities for self-fashioning.

JANUARY 22

‘Here, Now, and Way Back When: Portraiture in Early Modern Southeastern India’

Anna Lise Seastrand (University of Minnesota)

This talk focuses on the culturally and linguistically diverse Nāyaka courts of the Tamil region. Their “diversity” was in part the product of the highly interconnected early modern world, in which South India was an important node. Yet, even as the world changed, the representations of contemporary figures insisted on their simultaneous embeddedness within puranic times and places. This talk highlights connections to and through the Deccan in literary and visual approaches to portraiture in 18th-century south-eastern India.

March 5

‘The Idea of Sacral Kingship between Islamic and Turco-Mongol Concepts of Politics,’

Evrim Binbaş (University of Bonn)

Evrim’s research interests broadly embrace the historiography, political thought, and intellectual networks of the fifteenth and sixteenth century Islamic world. He is particularly interested in Timurid and Ottoman historiography, the political use of mythical narratives, epistolography and other modalities of intellectual communication, and the informal intellectual networks which, unlike the emerging Sufi orders, did not enter the process of institutionalization in the early modern period.

MARCH 2021

New York, Lahore: In Dialogue with Shahzia Sikander and Salman Toor

Co-convener with the Centre of Visual Culture at the University of Cambridge of “New York, Lahore: In Dialogue with Shahzia Sikander and Salman Toor,” on contemporary Pakistani-American queer and feminist art (March 2021). https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xQcJlbcpVoM.
“Written in Stone: Traces of Medieval Architects”

Subhashini Kaligotla, Yale University

Subhashini Kaligotla is Assistant Professor of Indian and South Asian Art at Yale University. Her area of expertise is early medieval Deccan India, 500 – 800 CE, with specific research interests in the multisensorial experience of sacred architecture, the agency of makers and images, the intersections between visual and textual representation, landscape history and culture, and the historiography of South Asian art history.

“Balsam and Betel Nut Palm: Botanical Representation in the Early Modern Deccan”

Nicolas Roth, Harvard University

Nicolas Roth received his PhD in South Asian Studies from Harvard University. His research explores the history of gardens and horticulture in early modern India, as well as the material and intellectual culture of the region more broadly. He works with materials in Sanskrit, Persian, and various forms of Hindi and Urdu across a broad array of textual genres, as well as with visual sources found in painting and other art forms.

“Jaina Temple Architecture of Coastal Karnataka: Climatic Dependencies and Artistic Freedoms”

Julia Hegewald, University of Bonn

Julia Hegewald is Professor of Oriental Art at the University of Bonn. She focuses on artistic and architectural expressions of different forms of dependency in Asian, particularly South Asian, art and architecture. She employs the theory of ‘re-use’ to show how different people have reacted in a variety of situations of extreme dependency, frequently in very creative ways, to integrate the old and the new, to bridge divides and eventually to contribute to cultural processes which are able to heal and mediate between at times wide and violent disparities of cultural expression.

“Deccani Portraits in Jahangir’s Albums”

Navina Najat Haidar, Metropolitan Museum of Art

Navina Haidar is Nasser Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah Curator in Charge of the Department of Islamic Art at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. She was the coordinating curator of the New Islamic Galleries project, which came to fruition with the 2011 opening of an extraordinary sequence of galleries dedicated to the Art of the Arab Lands, Turkey, Iran, Central Asia, and Later South Asia. Her major recent exhibitions have included Sultans of Deccan India, 1500–1700: Opulence and Fantasy (2015) and Divine Pleasures: The Kronos Collection of Rajput Painting (2016). She is currently working on a major exhibition—Jahangir: Emperor, Connoisseur, Naturalist of the Mughal Age—scheduled for 2024.
“Discovering the Deccan”

William Dalrymple in conversation with George Michell

William Dalrymple is a Scottish travel writer and historian, whose work centres chiefly on the Indian subcontinent. His first book, 1990’s In Xanadu, was an account of his journey from Jerusalem to Mongolia, travelling in the footsteps of Marco Polo. Dalrymple followed this up in 1994 with a biography of Delhi, where he had been living for the past five years, called City of Djinns, before producing his most acclaimed piece of travel writing, From the Holy Mountain. Published in 1997, the book retraces the path taken by two sixth-century monks across the Byzantine empire and was to be Dalrymple’s last travelogue to date. Since 1999, he has concentrated on detailed histories of the Indian subcontinent and, in particular, the Mughal empire. White Mughals was published in 2003, with The Last Mughal following three years later. Dalrymple has also written books on the First Anglo-Afghan War and, with Anita Anand, the Koh-i-Noor diamond. His latest book is The Anarchy, a history of the East India Company.


Richard Eaton, University of Arizona

Richard Eaton is a professor in the University of Arizona with a primary interest in the social and cultural history of pre-modern India (1000-1800). Most recently, he has published the second volume of the new Penguin history of India, entitled India in the Persianate Age, 1000-1765, which explores the long-term interaction between the Persianate and Sanskritic worlds, between the Iranian Plateau and South Asia, and between Islam and Indian religious traditions.

“Dressing in the Deccan: Clothing and Identity at the Courts of Central India”

Marika Sardar, Aga Khan Museum

Marika Sardar is Curator at the Aga Khan Museum, having previously worked at the Museum of Islamic Art in Doha, Qatar, the San Diego Museum of Art, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Major exhibitions include Interwoven Globe (2013), focusing on the worldwide textile trade from the 16th-18th century; Sultans of Deccan India, 1500-1750 (2015), examining the artistic traditions of the Muslim sultanates of central India; and Epic Tales from Ancient India (2016), looking at narrative traditions and the illustration of texts from South Asia.
21 JULY 2021

**Vernacular Visions: Art of the Book in Sultanate India**

**Delhi University**

Vivek delivered a lecture on “Vernacular Visions: Art of the Book in Sultanate India” at Delhi University as part of “Karwaan: The Heritage Exploration”.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aPtkWXsrN7k&t=587s

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**External Teaching**

**SPRING 2021**

**University of California, Irvine**

Invited lecturer, “Reclaiming Mirabilia: Arts of the Book in Sultanate India,” taught by Professor Alka Patel (History of Art)

**MAY 2021**

**Victoria and Albert Museum**

Lecturer, Islamic Art Module, Early Manuscript Illumination and Ilkhanid Books

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**Teaching at Cambridge**

**2020 – 2021**

MES 37 History of the premodern Middle East: The Persianate World from Timur to the Qajars - Co-lecturer a yearlong MA/MPhil course with Dr Assef Ashraf

MES 39: Islamic Cities and Muslim Kings? Monarchy, Legitimacy and Urbanism in the Medieval and Early Modern Islamic World - Co-lecturer in a yearlong MA/MPhil course with Dr Andrew Marsham (Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies)

First Year Course in History of Art: Objects of Art History, South Asian Art Lectures: Indian Painting, the Mughal Album, and Shahzia Sikander’s Contemporary Practice for first year art history majors

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**AUTUMN 2020**

**Williams College**

Invited lecturer, Seminar on “The Tradition of Islamic Cosmographical Manuscripts,” in Born to be wild: Representations of Animals in Classical and Modern texts
Panel

Muslim Activism in Europe: Locating Authority/ies and Representation

21 OCTOBER 2020

Online – Zoom
Dr Alistair Hunter, Michael Munnik, Emanuelle Degli-Esposti, Margreet van Es, Khadijah Elshayyal

A thematic panel to capture some of the many ways by which authority is established, represented, negotiated, contested, and often reshaped within and across the worldwide geography of Muslim communities. The various contributions will also help question dichotomous understandings of authority based on assumed elite/grassroots, gender- or geography-based “centres” and “peripheries”.

Chair: Dr Alistair Hunter, University of Glasgow

Fitting a Square Peg in a Round Hole: Authority and Representation of Islam in the News Media
Michael Munnik (University of Cardiff)

‘Finding a “Shi’a voice” in Europe: Religious equality, minority representation and the unsettling of secular humanitarianism in the discourse of “Shi’a rights”’
Emanuelle Degli-Esposti (University of Cambridge)

The contextuality of “talking back”: Muslims and the pressure to denounce violent extremism in Norway and the Netherlands’
Margreet van Es (Utrecht University)

“Fundamental British Values” and the neutralisation of dissent in British Muslim activist discourse’
Khadijah Elshayyal (Hamad Bin Khalifa University/Alwaleed Centre, University of Edinburgh)
Outreach

Fol event: Charity and activism in Shiism: How grassroots are changing the face of British Shiism

30 MARCH 2021

Dr Esposti contributed to this year’s festival of Ideas (now ‘The Cambridge Festival’) – see the ‘Public Engagement section’.

“Beyond” Sectarianism workshop

27 APRIL 2021

This workshop to discuss contributions to a special issue of the Review of International Studies was co-edited by Dr Esposti and Prof Simon Mabon at Lancaster.

Workshop

Sunni-Shi’i relations in Europe workshop

18 JUNE 2021

Dr Degli Esposti convened this special a one-day workshop organised jointly with Elvire Corboz at the Al-Waleed Centre in Edinburgh to discuss contributions for a special issue we are co-editing for the Journal of Muslims in Europe.

Workshop

Workshop on Shi’a Belonging

2 JULY 2021

Workshop to discuss contributions to a journal issue co-edited by myself and Christopher Bahl at Durham and funded by the British Academy.

Workshop

CRASSH Workshop, Religion and the SecULAR Academy

5–15 JULY 2021

Dr Degli Esposti convened this workshop for early career scholars working on issues of religion and secularism.

Symposium

MUKE

17 JUNE 2021

Dr Degli Esposti acted as a mentor at our flagship symposium, bringing together early-career academics.
Dr Mehrunisha Suleman has spent the last year in writing up her results from the previous three years to form part of a guidance document for government departments, NHS trusts and other relevant bodies. Alongside her part-time work at the Centre she has also taken on a role with The Health Foundation as Senior Research Fellow for a year to work on their inquiry into COVID-19; and was a key contributor to the 3rd Edition of ‘Care after Death Guidance’ for the UK Hospice movement.

**Members of ethnic minority communities had disproportionate levels of income loss, ranging from 25% to 43% compared with 22% among white British people (apart from black Caribbean people, where only 21% reported an income loss)**

**By January 2021, almost one in five (19%) 18-24 year olds who were in work before the pandemic were no longer working, compared with just 4% of 25-54 year olds and 11% of those aged 55 and older**

**People from ethnic minority communities are at higher risk of mortality due to COVID-19. During the first wave, black African people were 3.7 times more likely to die than white men**

**During the second wave, the risk increased for Bangladeshi men, who were five times more likely than white men to die from COVID-19**
TAUSHIF KARA

Publication
What is the intellectual history of India?
10 MAR 2021

Online
Shruti Kapila (Cambridge) with contributions from Luna Sebastian, Taushif Kara (Centre of Islamic Studies), Nazmul Sultan and Amar Sohal

A roundtable chaired by Shruti Kapila (Cambridge) with contributions from Luna Sebastian, Taushif Kara (Centre of Islamic Studies), Nazmul Sultan and Amar Sohal (Junior Research Fellows at Cambridge).

This event was part of the Cambridge South Asia Online series run by The Centre of South Asian Studies.

Online Series - Muslim thought in South Asia

“Debating Hindu-Muslim Friendship after Empire”
27 APRIL 2021

Online
SherAli Tareen (Franklin & Marshall College)

SherAli has been teaching at F&M since 2012. He received his PhD in Religion/Islamic Studies at Duke University and his BA at Macalester College. His work centers on Muslim intellectual thought in modern South Asia with a focus on intra-Muslim debates and polemics on crucial questions of law, ethics, and theology.
Online Series - Muslim thought in South Asia

“Sharing a Room with Sparrows: Maulana Azad and Muslim Ecological Thought”

11 MAY 2021

Online
Anand Vivek Taneja (Vanderbilt University)

Anand’s research and teaching focus on the religious and cultural traditions of South Asia, specializing in the anthropological study of contemporary Islam, Indian popular culture, and inter-religious relations between Muslims and Hindus.

Outreach

Rethinking Islam Today podcast

MAY 2021

Rethinking Islam Today podcast series (1st episode released, May 2021: https://anchor.fm/cis-cambridge)

Online Series – Muslim thought in South Asia

What is Bangladesh?

25 MAY 2021

Online
Naveeda Khan (Johns Hopkins University)

Naveeda explores insights into the experience of the crisis of climate change as it is foreshadowed within everyday life, development projects and global climate governance in riverine Bangladesh. Her earlier work on the formation of Pakistan has developed into an exploration of the role Islam plays more broadly in everyday life, specifically through the uptake of environmental issues within theology. Similarly, her work on Bangladesh has expanded from a consideration of the concrete experience of climate change on the ground, to a parallel study of the role Bangladesh plays in international governmental negotiations on climate policy.

Online Series - Muslim thought in South Asia

“The Here, and the After: Time and the Individual in the Mughal World”

8 JUNE 2021

Online
Shayan Rajani (LUMS & University of Pennsylvania)

Shayan Rajani is a historian of early modern South Asia. His research and teaching interests include Mughal history, the history of Pakistan and its regions, and the study of gender and sexuality.

CIS Public Talks

Esoteric Islam in Modern French Thought

10 JUNE 2021

Online
Professor Ziad Elmarsafy with Taushif Kara

Prof. Elmarsafy will speak with the Centre’s Research Associate, Taushif Kara, about his new book Esoteric Islam in Modern French Thought (2021, Bloomsbury Academic), which maps the central place of esoteric forms of Islam (including Shi’ism and Sufism) to the intellectual life of modern France.

Outreach

Sutton Trust Summer School

2–6 AUGUST 2021

Various Locations, University of Cambridge

“Global Islam” lecture and seminar - See the ‘Public Engagement’ section for more details.
TEACHING AND SCHOOLS / CURRICULUM OUTREACH

Arabic Language Teaching Programme  xx
Schools and Curriculum Outreach  xx
Centre of Islamic Studies Postgraduate Studentships  xx
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. The Centre is happy to welcome our new Teaching and Outreach Associate, Yomna Helmy.

Teaching Arabic as a Second Language has been her career since 2008. She started teaching Modern Standard Arabic as well as Egyptian & Emirati Colloquial Arabic in the United Arab Emirates before she decided in 2015 to pursue an MA in Educational Leadership at the University of Hull. Her Master’s dissertation was under the direction of Dr. Lisa Jones and examined the influence of Islamic values on leadership practices at Islamic Institutions in the UK.

Yomna Helmy holds a BA degree in Arabic & Islamic Studies from the University of the United Arab Emirates (2007).

Yomna Helmy is the new Teaching Associate at the Centre of Islamic Studies – she has started teaching Arabic in the Michaelmas term 2020.

She has extensive experience in teaching all levels of Arabic Language, Philosophy, and Islamic thought in the UK and the UAE. She taught and developed a range of courses including, Tafseer, Hadith, Islamic law, Salafism, Arabic Syntax, Morphology, Quranic Arabic, and Spoken Arabic. In addition, she has experience developing and implementing internal and external communications for religious and interfaith relations. Yomna is interested in Social Islamic thoughts and ethics within the fields of Hadith and Quranic Studies.
CIS Arabic Teaching & Outreach Programme
2020-2021:

Schools and Colleges Engagement:

Yomna was proud to work with various schools and colleges to enrich and inform education, debate and discussion about Islam and Muslims. A number of workshops and seminars on various topics were offered for a range of age groups in different schools and colleges across the country:

- Eden Girls’ School, London- Workshop on Contemporary debates about Islam
- Cambourne Village College – Cambridge – Workshop on Islam & Social Justice
- Reading Girls’ School, Reading- 3 Workshops on Contemporary debates about Islam
- Jeavons Wood Primary School, Cambridge, Workshop on Ramadan & Islam
- The East Manchester Academy, Manchester
- Morpeth Sixth Form, London – Basic Beliefs & Practices of Islam
- King’s School Hove, East Sussex – Two-days Workshop on Tackling Islamophobia
- Comberton Village College, Cambridge- Two Workshops on War and Peace from Islamic Perspectives
- St John Payne Catholic School, Essex- Workshop on Basic Beliefs and Practice of Islam
**Education Staff Training:**

High quality professional development and consultancy had been offered to support teachers and educators in British schools in teaching about Islam and Muslim.

- Online Teacher Training for over thirty RE teachers on Teaching about Islam at A-Level hosted by Oxford Cambridge and RSA (OCR) Religious Studies.
- Staff training on Islamic Finance and Students Loan at Challney Boys High School, Luton.
- A CPD on Diversity and Inclusion - Islam and Muslims, hosted by National Association of Teachers of Religious Education (NATRE).

Curricula Review: Yomna serves as a consultant and reviewer with Hodder Education to help improve GCSE textbooks of Religious Education that include content about Islam.

**Interfaith Dialogue and Public Engagement:**

Yomna acts as an advisory board for the Oxford Interfaith Forum and International Reading Group, which is an initiative hosted by the Centre for Muslim-Christian Studies at the University of Oxford.

Oxford Interfaith Forum connects researchers, practitioners and policymakers from across the globe and disciplines. It involves monthly Zoom meetings on religious scriptures, with multidisciplinary and interfaith perspectives. Yomna has chaired and presented at many of those meetings, where they meet to share knowledge and learn from each other. Here is a reflection on one of the session I presented written by Dr. Erica Mongé-Greer from University of Aberdeen.

https://scholarlywanderlust.com/academic-conferences/psalms-and-islamic-readings-of-abrahams-prayers/

Yomna was also engaged with different faith groups and interfaith forums such as Imam Online and UAE Forum for promoting Peace to offer knowledge and expertise with the aim of promoting understanding between different religions to increase acceptance and tolerance.
Refugee worker Training

Yomna was proud to build and develop relationships with refugee workers and volunteers in Cambridgeshire and beyond to support them and raise awareness on Arabic culture, identity and diversity as well as promoting better understanding of Islam and Muslims.

Examples of workshops:

- Introduction to Arabic Language and Culture Workshop,
- Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign (CRRC), Cambridge
- Understanding Islamophobia Workshop, West Way Trust, London

Academic Conferences and Workshops:

- Yomna presented a paper at the IIIT’s American Journal of Islam and Society (AJIS’s) symposium on the topic of “Theory and Uses of Maqāṣid al-Shari’a”
  
The paper will be published in April 2022 at the American Journal for Islam and Society.

- Yomna taught a summer course on History of Modern Arab World with Sutton Summer School and FAMES.
Muslim Women Educators Project:

Yomna co-organized a three-day workshop titled Muslim Women Educators Research and Practice Workshop that hosted 11 academics and educational practitioners and aimed to bridge the gap between theory and practice in the education of securitized youth. One of the major outcomes of this workshop was a set of recommendations for stakeholders working in this sector. These recommendations will be written into a report that will be officially presented to the public at a launch to take place within the next six months.

Feedback

Workshops:

“Thank you, thank you, thank you for the wonderful workshop! The sessions were interactive and engaging and the students tell me they found them very varied, interesting, informative, and thought provoking. Thank you for providing our students with such a stimulating day. We know you will have put a lot of time, effort and energy into preparing and running the workshops and we are very grateful for all your work and support.”

Kate (Teacher) – Reading Girls’ School

“It is fantastic that in lockdown we are still able to offer our PSHE and careers activities with external experts, even though they have to be virtual. The staff supervising tell me the session was interactive, the content excellent and the girls were all engaged. Thank you so much for providing this for our student.”

Sebastian (Teacher) – The East Manchester Academy

“Thank you for speaking remotely to our Year 10 pupils today for two sessions about War and Peace. The feedback has been very positive from staff and pupils, the powerpoint was extremely informative and the pupils made good notes. We look forward to future opportunities to invite you or colleagues back to speak again on Islamic teachings.”

Megan (Teacher) – Comberton Village College
“Dear Yomna,
Thank you very much for giving up your time to talk to us and for raising awareness of the issue of Islamophobia. I have now learnt new things about Islamophobia, like how it may be caused. For example, media can be a huge influence on people’s opinions, even if it is not true. It can encourage Islamophobia by spreading false facts and making people believe them, no matter how unbelievable it can be. Therefore, thank you for talking to us about Islamophobia and what an important problem it is”.

A Year 9 Student, Kings’ School Hove.

“Dear Yomna,
Thank you for giving up your time to talk to us and explain the different struggles that Muslims face around the world. Thank you for answering our questions in a unique and simple way so we could understand it. It was wonderful to learn new things about Islam like the two main type of sects within Islam. Your presentation has increased our knowledge about Islam and Muslims around the world. Thank you for giving us this opportunity.

A Year 9 Student – Kings’ Hove School

Arabic Programme:

“I’m writing just a quick note to say that I thoroughly enjoyed your class, and it was never a chore to attend a class. I always learned something that challenged me and enjoyed doing so! Thank you, again, for such a wonderful learning experience, and I hope to learn from you again in the next term!”

(MPhil student, Intermediate Arabic Course, 2020/2021)

“One of my favourite aspects of your classes is the very interesting topics you choose and present! I look forward to the discussions and the context help with memorising the words.”


“I loved your Arabic sessions! Arabic is a very logical language and you made it enjoyable. It was enjoyable and informative because I could see how it applied in real-life situations”


“Thank you for the amazing classes. I must say that the reassurance and confidence I gained out of your teaching was invaluable. My biggest problem in the advanced classes was my limited vocabulary, but the material and resources you create are truly brilliant.”

PhD Student, Advanced Arabic, 2020/2021.

“The FAMES Summer School by Cambridge offered me an incredible insight into the Middle East that I [will] forever be grateful for. Even though I enjoyed every seminar, lecture, and discussion held by the faculty, it was the lectures on the History of the Modern Arab World held by Yomna Helmy that stuck with me the most, without a doubt. I’d argue that a major reason for this is that I initially had no prior knowledge of the Middle East…. Soon, I learned that everything was completely different to what I had expected. From the culture to the language to the history”

from a student essay – FAMES Sutton School, August 2021.
Feedback continued

Curriculum Review:

“Thank you very much for this review. I am grateful for your excellent review work spotting the various inconsistencies and errors. Thank you for suggesting alternative text where things need to be changed. I will certainly recommend that we implement all of your changes. I will need reviews like this on a number of upcoming books and I wonder if you would be interested in working with me again on similar projects in the future? Your input will make a real difference to the quality and accuracy of our books.”

Emily, Hodder Education

Interfaith

“Thank you very much for your thought-provoking and inspiring presentation of the Creation Story from the Muslim perspective. It was our honour to welcome you to the Oxford Interfaith Forum. I am pleased to let you know that we have received fantastic feedback from our audience. We are inundated with requests for a recording of the webinar. I am seeking your permission to make it publicly accessible.”

Thea, University of Oxford, Oxford Interfaith Forum

“Thank you so much for this wonderful presentation and discussion! It was such a pleasure learning from your reflections and observations today. Your polished chairing of the event made it even more enjoyable. I look forward to learning from you again in future sessions!”

Anastasia, Fuller Theological Seminary
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 2020-21 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.

**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 part, 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.

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.”

Casper Sanderson
MPhil candidate
Casper has received an MA (Hons) in Arabic, Persian and Russian at the University of St Andrews. His MPhil thesis examines the manifestations of dissent in contemporary Iranian hip-hop through the lenses of Instagram and Youtube, focusing notably on the rapper Amir Tataloo.

Mohammad Adnan
MPhil candidate
Mohammad received his B.A. in History at Princeton University, and an MSc in Modern South Asian Studies at St. Antony’s College, Oxford. His MPhil thesis traces the history of French missionary schools in Tehran during the Pahlavi period. At Cambridge, he is a member of Wolfson College.

Samir Saad
PhD candidate
Samir is researching the political history of law-making in the late Ottoman Empire, Syria and Jordan between about 1860 and 1978. He is surveying the attitudes of political agents toward reform legislation, and the ways in which politics influenced the preparation and adoption of such legislation in the face of crisis and change.

Samir earned his BA in politics from the University of Windsor (2014). He then took his LLB degree at the University of Surrey (2017), and his MPhil in modern Middle Eastern history at the University of Cambridge (2020). Samir is reading for a PhD at King’s College, Cambridge.
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 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.

Ms. Hacer Z. Gonul
Ph.D. Candidate, East Asia Studies Centre (EASt), ULB

**Research interests:** Ethnic and religious minorities in China particularly ethnicity, radicalization, Islam in China, securitization with a special focus on Hui and Uyghur communities.

**Research at Cambridge:** Negotiating Islam in China and Being a ‘Muslim’ in China.

Dr. Sertaç Sehlikoglu
Senior Research Associate, The Institute for Global Prosperity, University College London

**Research Interests:** Social anthropology, subjectivity, gender, and desire, the interconnections between the visible and invisible, tangible and intangible.

**Research at Cambridge:** Populism, Islam, and empire and the way such political aspirations are connected to global politics to populism, toxic nationalism, and imaginative/emotional visions of total domination as major challenges to social and political life.

Dr Alice Wilson
Senior Lecturer in Social Anthropology, University of Sussex

**Research Interests:** Political and economic anthropology of the Middle East and North Africa, liberation movements, revolutions, northwest Africa, Oman.

**Research at Cambridge:** Legacies of the former liberation movement in Dhufar, southern Oman, especially in kinship, everyday socialising and ongoing platforms for progressive politics.
Dr. H.A. Hellyer
Senior Associate Fellow, The Royal United Services Institute (London) and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (DC)

Research Interests: Politics, international relations and religion, in the West and the Arab world; the geopolitics of the wider Arab world; Western Muslim communities; contemporary Islamic studies; extremist groups; the mainstreaming of far-right in the West. More at www.hahellyer.com.

Research at Cambridge: Dr Hellyer is on the steering committee for the EU Horizon 2020 project on ‘Radicalisation, Secularism and the Governance of Religion’, researching 23 countries on 4 continents, in conjunction with 12 universities. Among other publications, he will also separately produce a monograph on recently deceased 20th/21st century Western Sufi scholar.

His most recent articles are:
• In Politico magazine on ‘Arab spring, European winter’
• In Jadaliyya magazine on ‘Powerful Scholars and Clerics of Power: Remembering Shaykh Emad Effat’

Professor Yasir Suleiman
Professor Yasir Suleiman was the founding 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. 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.
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.
Dr William Ryle-Hodges
Dr William Ryle-Hodges conducts interdisciplinary research on the intellectual history of the modern Middle East. He currently works on Arab journalism in late 19th century Egypt, particularly looking at ideas of civility, society and public opinion and the way these ideas shaped and linked together Islamic legal and ethical traditions, constitutionalism and the formation of the modern state. This work centres on a close study of the journalism of the renowned religious scholar and reformer, Muhammad `Abduh (1849–1905), which sheds light on the local journalistic and bureaucratic dimensions of `Abduh’s reforms: their place in the intellectual and social change in Egypt that `Abduh was negotiating in the overlapping contexts of Ottoman modernizing reforms (the tanẓīmāt), the `Urābī Revolution of 1881-1882, and the Arabic literary renaissance of the time, known as the Nahḍa. William also works on the historical and contemporary legacy of Nahḍa ideas from this period and their interaction with the emergence of Islamism, particularly exploring this interaction in the life of the charismatic Sufi and Shaykh al-Azhar, `Abd al-Halîm Mahmûd (1910–1978). He has several publications in these fields and supervises undergraduate modules in Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Cambridge.

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.
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.
CENTRE STAFF 2020/21
Director (On Sabbatical)
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 latest 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**

Mehmed Ali Pasha and Ibrahim through the eyes of an Egyptian historians LiFO Magazine (2021)

“In Quest of Justice Islamic Law and Forensic Medicine in Modern Egypt” – published 2018


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


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

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:

2021  The Social Life of Syrian Diplomacy: Transnational Kinship Networks of the Asad Regime  *History and Anthropology*

2020  After Trust: Institutions, Flexibility and Geopolitics in the Durability of Networks in Inter-Asian Commerce”. Introduction to Special Issue (with Magnus Marsden) *Global Networks* (in press)

2020  Not a Silk Road: Trading Networks between China and the Middle East as a Dynamic Interaction of Competing Eurasian Geographies *Global Networks: a Journal of Transnational Affairs*


2018  *Muslims in the UK and Europe IV* (Ed. with J.Hargreaves). Cambridge: Centre of Islamic Studies.


Conference and Seminar Papers:


2017  Aleppo in China, China in Aleppo. China Research Seminar, Department of East Asian Studies, 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.


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Teaching & Outreach Associate

Yomna Helma

Yomna holds a BA degree in Arabic & Islamic Studies from the University of the United Arab Emirates (2007). Teaching Arabic as a Second Language has been her career since 2008. She started teaching Modern Standard Arabic as well as Egyptian & Emirati Colloquial Arabic in the United Arab Emirates before she decided in 2015 to pursue an MA in Educational Leadership at the University of Hull. Her Master’s dissertation was under the direction of Dr. Lisa Jones and examined the influence of Islamic values on leadership practices at Islamic Institutions in the UK.

She has extensive experience in teaching all levels of Arabic Language, Philosophy, and Islamic thought in the UK and the UAE. She taught and developed a range of courses including, Tafseer, Hadith, Islamic law, Salafism, Arabic Syntax, Morphology, Quranic Arabic, and Spoken Arabic. In addition, she has experience developing and implementing internal and external communications for religious and interfaith relations. Yomna is interested in Social Islamic thoughts and ethics within the fields of Hadith and Quranic Studies.
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.

Committee of Management 2020–21
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
Representative of the Department of Middle Eastern Studies

Professor David Abulafia
Representative of the Faculty of History

Dr Samir Anabtawi
Academic Advisor to HRH

Ms. Nauf Al Rawaf
Executive Manager of the Global Initiatives, Awaleed Philanthropies

Professor Khaled Fahmy
Director of the Centre