

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

مركز الأمير الوليد بن طلال للدراسات الإسلامية

HRH PRINCE ALWALEED BIN TALAL  
CENTRE OF ISLAMIC STUDIES



ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22

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## FROM THE ACTING DIRECTOR (2021–22)



At the end of this year, the Centre bade a sad farewell its Director, Professor Khaled Fahmy. Professor Fahmy provided inspirational leadership to the Centre for five years, and I and all his colleagues at Cambridge record our thanks for his service, and wish him well in his next move.

I am delighted to say that through the academic year 2021–22, the Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Centre at the University of Cambridge continued to fulfil its dual mission of academic excellence and vibrant public engagement in the fields of Islamic Studies.

Our ever-popular public talks series addressed a range of historical, political and cultural issues related to Islamic history and Middle Eastern politics. Over the last academic year, we convened eleven talks from experts on topics ranging from early Islamic history to modern Salafi piety, from petitioning of government officials in early Islamic Egypt to Azhari scholars and youth in post-2011 Egypt. Through a hybrid in-person and online format, this series reached a wide and diverse audience of members of the public and scholars from across the globe.

Our Research and Outreach Associates have been active both at the forefront of their academic fields, and in public education, through talks and podcasts and accessible seminar series. Dr Emanuelle Degli Esposti co-organized a major conference, exploring the formation and evolution of Shi'i identity from the 16th to 21st centuries. Dr Taushif Kara co-organised a similarly high-profile conference on Islam at the end of Empire at the Institute of Ismaili Studies, exploring how the academic study of Islam has been shaped by the arrival of post-colonial sovereignty. Dr Vivek Gupta also continued convening the online seminar series on Deccan art and heritage, *'From Malabar to Coromandel'*, in collaboration with the Deccan Heritage Foundation and the His Highness Srikantadatta Narasimharaja Wadiyar Foundation.

Dr Vivek Gupta, who specializes in the history of Islamic art, also curated the landmark UK exhibition of the world-renowned Pakistani-American artist Shahzia Sikander. The exhibition explored the forms of connectedness and intimacy entailed by decolonisation, and ran for four months between October and February. It was held at Jesus College, Cambridge, and co-sponsored by the Centre of Islamic Studies, the Bagri foundation and Jesus College, and attracted wide audiences.

Our Visiting Fellows also continued to add depth and breadth the Centre's activities. Ahmed Paul Keeler, who created the World of Islam Festival in 1976, and went on to become a well-known author

and cultural critic, launched his latest book with the Centre this year. *A Life's Journey* is the companion volume to *Rethinking Islam and the West*, and tells the intriguing personal, intellectual and artistic story that led Ahmed Paul to develop his challenging thesis.

Our Visiting Fellow Dr Elizabeth Key Fowden and former Postdoctoral Fellow Dr Deniz Türker co-organised a workshop in Kavala, exploring the cultural hybridity of embroidery across the eastern Mediterranean region. This workshop, co-funded by the Centre, and a subsequent online dialogue brought together historians, curators, and archaeologists to discuss how to communicate and present the patterns of exchange between 'Hellenic' and 'Oriental' material culture across the Eastern Mediterranean.

Our Teaching and Outreach Associate Yomna Helmy held workshops and seminars at various schools and colleges around the country to to enrich and inform education, debate and discussion about Islam and Muslims. These reached around 700 students and staff across ten institutions. Yomna also continued her work as a consultant and reviewer with Hodder Education and Illuminate Publishing to help review and improve GCSE and A-Level textbooks that include content about Islam.

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 five 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 throughout the year and look forward to the coming year's achievements.

**Dr. Paul Anderson**

Acting Director (2021–22)  
Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Centre of Islamic Studies  
University of Cambridge

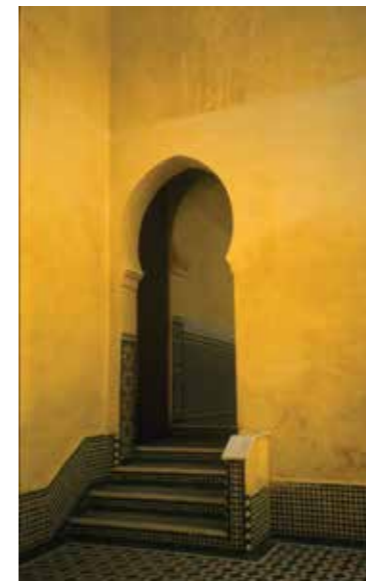
## CONTENTS

BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION	7
ACTIVITIES	9
<b>PUBLIC TALKS</b>	<b>10</b>
Middle Eastern and Islamic History: Public Seminar Series	10
The Mizan Thesis: on Islamic Civilisation	18
From Konkan to Coromandel – Deccan Heritage, Art and Culture	19
<b>ART EXHIBITION</b>	<b>23</b>
Shahzia Sikander: "Unbound", on feminist responses to Persian and Indian painting	23
<b>CIS SYMPOSIA</b>	<b>26</b>
Shahzia Sikander at Jesus College: Archives, Contemporary Practices, and Decolonisation	26
Critical Perspectives on Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies	29
Cultural Hybridity in the Mediterranean	30
<b>CONFERENCES: ADVANCING ACADEMIC AND PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE</b>	<b>33</b>
The study of Islam at the End of Empire	34
The Creation of Shi'a Identity: Religion, History, and Community from the 16th to the 21st century	36
<b>TEACHING AND SCHOOLS / CURRICULUM OUTREACH</b>	<b>39</b>
Arabic Language Teaching Programme	40
Schools and Curriculum Outreach	42
<b>SUPPORTING STUDENTS</b>	<b>45</b>
Centre of Islamic Studies Postgraduate Studentships	46
<b>VISITING FELLOWS AND RESEARCHERS</b>	<b>49</b>
Visiting Fellows	50
Research Associates	53
Visiting Researchers	55
<b>PARTNERS</b>	<b>57</b>
Gulf Research Centre-Cambridge (GRC-C)	58
<b>CENTRE STAFF 2021/22</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT 2021–22</b>	<b>64</b>





## 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 2021/22 the Centre has promoted dialogue and discussion in a variety of forms (online, hybrid and fully in-person) as the year progressed and the pandemic receded.





## ACTIVITIES

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Middle Eastern and Islamic History: Public Seminar Series	10
The Mizan Thesis: on Islamic Civilisation	18
From Konkan to Coromandel – Deccan Heritage, Art and Culture	19
<b>ART EXHIBITION</b>	<b>23</b>
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<b>CIS SYMPOSIA</b>	<b>26</b>
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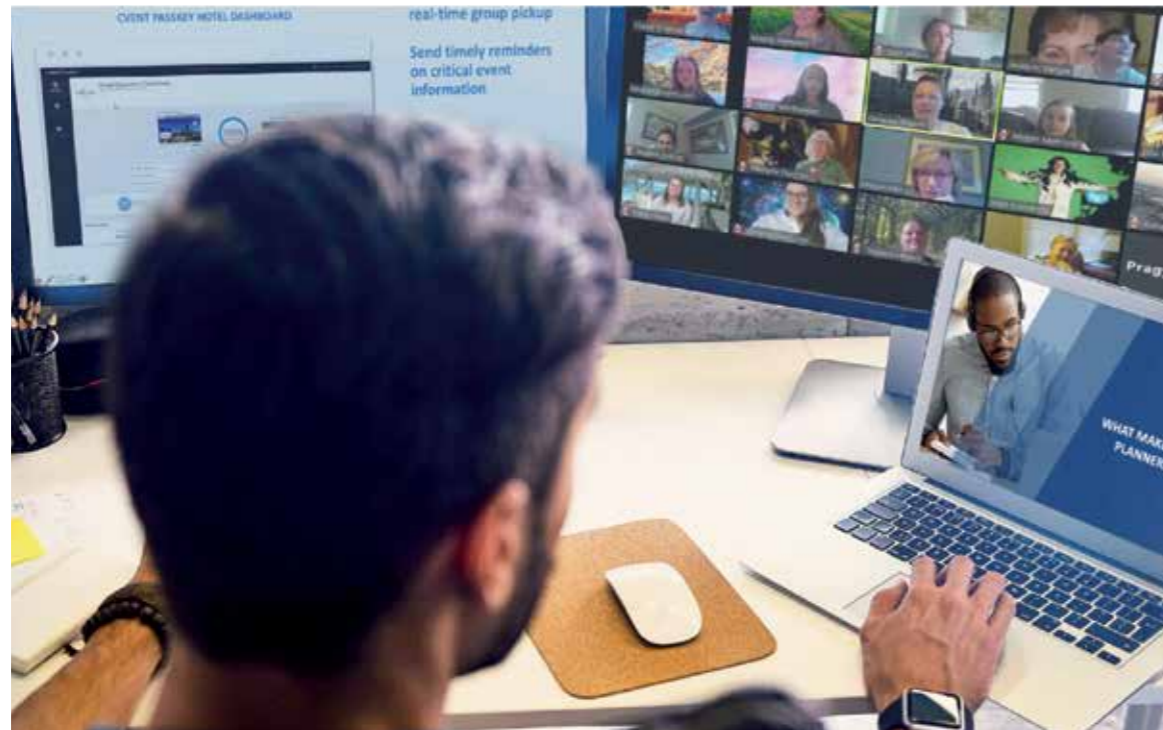
Keith Roper



## PUBLIC TALKS

### Middle Eastern and Islamic History: Public Seminar Series

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. This year we have run 'hybrid' talks (online and in-person) which has maintained our audience albeit shared across the two platforms.



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14 OCTOBER 2021

### Standing the Democratic Transition Paradigm on its Head: New Reflections after the Arab Revolutions

**Dr Abdelwahab El-Affendi, University of Westminster and Azmi Bishara, Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies**



At a time when the last democratic flame in the region (in Tunisia) is perilously flickering, presenting our region as a site of fresh thinking on democracy and democratization might look a bit audacious, to put it mildly. In our recent book (*After the Arab Revolutions*) we go further than that, advertising the "Decentering of Democratic Transition Theory", as the subtitle puts it. Our argument is that lessons learned about the dynamics of the Arab uprisings, and even the factors



that caused democratic experiments to collapse, are as enlightening as those that had caused democracies to thrive elsewhere. They could also explain provenance of the threats facing established democracies in Europe, the US and elsewhere, as populist rebelliousness is pushing democracies perilously towards the edge.

Theories of democratization cannot ignore these dynamics. In trying to bring this dimension into focus, we hope to refute arguments by Leonard Binder and others about the region's theoretical impoverishment and marginality (and that of Middle East scholarship in general).

Azmi Bishara is one of the most prominent scholars in the Arab world, known for his work on global issues and those pertaining to the Arab region in particular. As a public intellectual, Bishara is one of the most influential critics of authoritarianism and colonialism and a staunch supporter of democratic transition in the region.

Abdelwahab El-Affendi is Provost and Acting President of the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies in Doha, Qatar. His most recent book, *After the Arab Revolutions: Decentering of Democratic Transition Theory* (co-edited with Khalil Alanani) was published by Edinburgh University Press last August. He is also editor of *Genocidal Nightmares: Narratives of Insecurity and the Logic of Mass Atrocities* (Bloomsbury, 2015).

28 OCTOBER 2021

### The challenge of thinking about “Islamic law”

Dr Anver Emon, University of Toronto



In this talk, Anver M. Emon examines the legally perplexing case of cross-border parental child abduction by interrogating the logics of both private international law (aka Conflicts of Law) and Islamic law (both premodern and as

implemented in modern states). The limited literature on this topic addresses it from the perspective of human rights, children’s rights, or Islamic legal exceptionalism. Drawing on upon this recent publication, Emon will elaborate on insights gained from the research critical insight into the possibilities of comparative law, international law, and Islamic legal studies.

Anver M. Emon is the Professor of Law and History; Canada Research Chair in Islamic Law and History; Director, Institute of Islamic Studies. He studies pre-modern and modern Islamic legal history, the role of Shari’a both inside and outside the Muslim majority world, and the historiography of that field of knowledge production.

In addition to publishing numerous articles, Professor Emon is the author of *The ‘Islamic’ Deployed: The Study of Islam in Four Registers* (Middle East Law and Governance, 2019), *Islamic Natural Law Theories* (Oxford University Press, 2010), and *Religious Pluralism and Islamic Law: Dhimmis and Others in the Empire of Law* (Oxford University Press, 2012), as well as the co-editor of *Islamic Law and International Human Rights Law: Searching for Common Ground?* (Oxford University Press, 2012).

11 NOVEMBER 2021

### Impostures

Michael Cooperson, University of California



The best-known work of fiction in pre-modern Arabic was not *The 1001 Nights* but a collection of stories called *Impostures*. The hero is a hard-drinking preacher who can produce any kind of speech, including puns, riddles, and

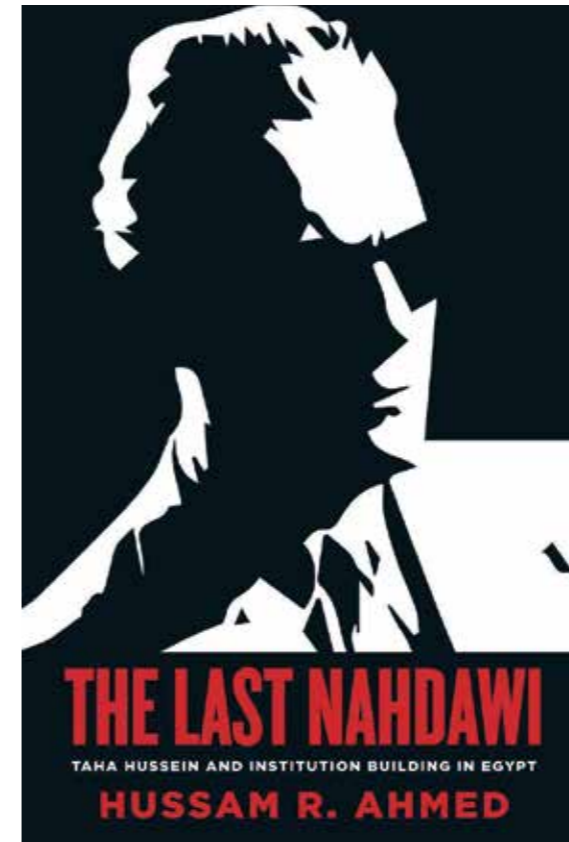
palindromes, on demand. Because of its over-the-top wordplay, *Impostures* has long been called untranslatable. Yet it has been adapted successfully into Hebrew, German, and Russian. The latest attempt is in English and puts each of the 50 stories into a different historical, literary, or global style, from thieves’ cant to Multicultural London English. Does it work? You decide!

Michael Cooperson teaches Arabic at the University of California, Los Angeles. He has published numerous studies of early Abbasid cultural history, including *Classical Arabic Biography* (2000) and *Al-Ma’mun* (2005). His translations from Arabic include *The Life of Ibn Hanbal, by Ibn al-Jawzī* (NYU Press 2017), which won the Sheikh Hamad Prize for Translation and *International Understanding; and al-Hariri’s Impostures* (NYU Press, 2020), which won the 2021 Sheikh Zayed Book Award in the translation category. His other research interests include Maltese language and culture.

25 NOVEMBER 2021

### The Last Nahdawi: Taha Hussein and Institution Building in Egypt

Dr Hussam Ahmed, National University of Ireland, Maynooth



In this talk, Hussam R. Ahmed will speak about his new book, *The Last Nahdawi: Taha Hussein and Institution Building in Egypt*, released in June 201 by Stanford University Press. The book explores the efforts of Taha Hussein (1889–1973), one of the most influential thinkers and statesmen of the modern Arab world, in formulating and implementing

Egypt’s cultural and educational policies within a challenging colonial context. Neither existing historiography nor literary projects grounded in postcolonial studies do justice to the institutional and political context in which Hussein was writing and making decisions. Drawing on state and university archival records and Hussein’s private papers, *The Last Nahdawi* shifts the focus from Hussein the Dean of Arabic Literature to the lesser-known politician and civil servant and offers the first biography in which his intellectual outlook and public career are taken equally seriously. Examining Hussein’s actions against the backdrop of his complex relationship with the Egyptian state, the religious establishment, and the French government, the book situates modern Egypt’s cultural influence in the Arab and Islamic world within the various structural changes and political processes of the parliamentary period (1922–1952). It offers both a history of modern state formation, revealing how the Egyptian state came to hold such a strong grip over culture and education—and a compelling examination of the life of the country’s most renowned intellectual.

Hussam R. Ahmed is a historian of the modern Middle East. He completed his Ph.D. at McGill University in 2018 focusing on the social and cultural history of modern Egypt. He then took up postdoctoral fellowships at KU Leuven and the University of Cambridge before joining the Department of History at the National University of Ireland, Maynooth as Assistant Professor.



27 JANUARY 2022

### Conquered Populations in Early Islam

**Dr Elizabeth Urban, West Chester University of Pennsylvania**



In this talk on her new book 'Conquered Populations in Early Islam – Non-Arabs, Slaves and the Sons of Slave Mothers', Prof. Urban traces the journey of new Muslims as they joined the early Islamic community and articulated their

identities within it. She focuses on Muslims of slave origins, who belonged to the society in which they lived but whose background of slavery rendered them somehow alien. How did these Muslims at the crossroads of insider and outsider find their place in early Islamic society? How did Islamic society itself change to accommodate these new members?

Elizabeth Urban is Assistant Professor of the Islamic World in the Department of History at West Chester University of Pennsylvania. She has published articles in *Interdisciplinary Humanities* and *Journal of Qur'anic Studies* and peer-reviewed chapters in edited volumes published by Peeters, OUP and Brill. This is her first book.

10 FEBRUARY 2022

### In the Shade of the Sunna: Salafi Piety in the 20th Century Middle East

**Dr Aaron Rock-Singer, University of Wisconsin-Madison**



Salafis explicitly base their legitimacy on continuity with the Quran and the Sunna, and their distinctive practices – praying in shoes, wearing long beards and short pants, and observing gender segregation – are understood to have a similarly

ancient pedigree. In this talk, based on his forthcoming book from the University of California Press (June 2022), Aaron Rock-Singer argues that Salafism is a creation of the twentieth century and that its signature practices emerged primarily out of Salafis' competition with other social movements amid the intellectual and social upheavals of modernity. In doing so, he moves beyond the surface claims of Salafism's own proponents – and the academics who often reproduce them – into the larger sociocultural and intellectual forces that have shaped Islam's fastest growing revivalist movement.

Aaron Rock-Singer an Assistant Professor of History at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and received his Ph.D. in 2016 from Princeton's Department of Near Eastern Studies. Aaron is historian of the modern Middle East, with a focus on 20th century Islamic movements and states. His first book, *Practicing Islam in Egypt: Print Media and Islamic Revival* (Cambridge, 2019), drew on ideologically diverse magazines from this period to chart the rise of an Islamic Revival in 1970s Egypt within a larger global story of religious contestation and change.

24 FEBRUARY 2022

### Rebelling against the Ruler: Azhari Scholars and Youth in Post-2011 Egypt

**Dr Nareman Amin, University of Pennsylvania & Dr Hisham Hellyer, University of Cambridge**



In conversation with Dr HA Hellyer (Cambridge University and Carnegie Endowment), Dr Nareman Amin (University of Pennsylvania) will explore her research on televised statements made by Azhari scholars during the 2011 and 2013 protests in Egypt, and the reactions of Egyptian youth to these statements. Dr Amin's research reveals that although some jurists discouraged the laity from joining the 2011 protests, religious youth were not deterred from protesting. Additionally, Dr Amin's research shows how laypeople, who were not well-versed in Islamic law, grew suspicious of the shifting opinions of scholars on the legal status of protest, as happened in 2013. In the aftermath of the 2011 and 2013 movements, the moral capital of several Azhari scholars decreased as did the moral-legal purchase of the fatwās they issued.

Biography: Dr Nareman Amin is the Andrea Mitchell Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania, where she is working on a manuscript about youth religiosity in Egypt after the 2011 uprising. Her research interests lie in issues of religious authority, youth culture and religion and media.

Dr HA Hellyer FRSA, a Carnegie Endowment scholar, is a visiting fellow of the University of Cambridge's Centre for Islamic Studies. He focuses on politics, international studies, and religion, in the West and the Arab world.

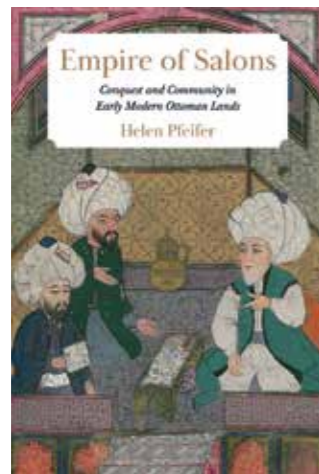
10 MARCH 2022

## Empire of Salons

Dr Helen Pfeifer, University of Cambridge



The literary salons of eighteenth-century France are well-known and widely celebrated. What is less well known is that the Ottoman Empire harboured a similar culture of intellectual gatherings, albeit mostly of men. This talk, which launches Pfeifer's new book *Empire of Salons*, offers glimpses into 16th-century gentlemanly salons in the Ottoman Empire. As in any good, learned assembly, there will be poetry and jokes; but the talk won't neglect the more cutthroat aspects of Ottoman conversation culture.



Salons, the talk will show, were not just places of idle entertainment, but key sites where Middle Eastern society and culture were made.

Helen Pfeifer is a historian of the Ottoman Empire, with an interest in understanding the empire within larger Islamic, European, and global contexts. Her research focuses on empire, the circulation of culture, and the management of human diversity in the early modern period. Her new book, *Empire of Salons: Conquest and Community in 16th-Century Ottoman Lands*, studies the social and cultural consequences of the Ottoman incorporation of the Arab world in 1516–7. Based on both Arabic and Ottoman Turkish sources, it shows how Ottoman literary salons contributed to a shared sociability that eased communication across the diverse and sprawling empire.

5 MAY 2022

## Reconstructing the Earliest Islamic History Writing from the 2nd Hijrī Century: The Case of the First Arabic Annals

Dr Edward Zychowicz-Coghill, King's College, University of London



Study of the historical origins of Islam and the caliphate has been dogged by one major problem. The earliest Arabic texts were compiled in the 3rd hijrī century, some 200 or more years after the events they describe. Sceptics have argued that these texts are

unreliable, reflecting later political and religious debates rather than genuine historical memory. One key to unlocking this problem is understanding the nature of the sources used by these 3rd century historians. This talk argues that we can use brief annalistic histories, which were being compiled as early as the first half of the 2nd hijrī century (c. 710–760 CE) and which were then incorporated into the great later compilations like al-Tabarī's *History of Prophets and Kings*. It proposes a method for reconstructing one of these, a history written by the Egyptian jurist al-Layth b. Sa'd in the 120s AH/740s CE. By inspecting the kind of information al-Layth recorded and assessing it alongside his connections, we can see the political and intellectual fields in which the earliest formal collection of Islamic historical record was cultivated. This can reveal an origin for Islamic annalistic history writing tied to the development of the Islamic state.

Dr Zychowicz-Coghill is Lecturer in the History of Asia at King's College London. Before this he was a researcher at the University of Cambridge, having received a DPhil in History from the University of Oxford.

19 MAY 2022

## Petitioning government officials in early Islamic Egypt

Dr Petra Sijpesteijn, Leiden University



Life in medieval Egypt was beset by obstacles and misfortunes. Harvests could fail due to a disappointing Nile inundation, or be wrecked by flooding. Wild animals might eat the crops or damage the fields. Illness and death could strike

suddenly. Abuse, deceit, theft, corruption and mismanagement generated feuds and law-suits between business partners, family members or neighbours, leading to stress and conflict. How did people deal with such problems? To whom could they turn with their stories of abuse, mismanagement or theft? How could they recover what they felt was theirs or restore their sense of right?

Between the late Roman Empire and Fatimid Egypt lies the equally rich but much less well understood system of appeal to Egypt's first Arab rulers, from the province's conquest in the mid-seventh century to the late ninth century CE. How this procedure related to the earlier institutions of petitioning, and what its relation was to other forms of dispensing justice, especially the judicial system, but also as administered by other religious, social and economic figures of authority, remain vexing questions. In this presentation I will use documents preserved on papyrus from Egypt and Palestine to reconstruct how complaints were dealt with, social tensions diffused, and the equilibrium maintained by Arab government officials in the early Islamic period.

Petra Sijpesteijn is professor of Arabic at Leiden University. She studied Arabic and history at Leiden, Cambridge, Damascus, Cairo and Princeton where she received her PhD.

2 JUNE 2022

## The Republic of Arabic Letters: Islam, the European Enlightenment, and Beyond

Dr Alex Bevilacqua, Williams College, Massachusetts



In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, a community of Catholic and Protestant scholars laid the groundwork for the modern Western understanding of Islamic religion and culture. These men produced the first

accurate translation of the Qur'an into a European language, mapped the branches of the Islamic arts and sciences, and wrote Islamic history using Arabic sources. The knowledge they generated was deeply indebted to native Muslim traditions, especially Ottoman ones. Eventually the translations, compilations, and histories they produced reached such luminaries as Voltaire and Edward Gibbon, who not only assimilated the factual content of these works but wove their interpretations into the fabric of Enlightenment thought. This lecture will present the main arguments of *The Republic of Arabic Letters* (Harvard University Press 2018), then consider critical engagements with its thesis and exciting new scholarship that has appeared since its publication.

Alexander Bevilacqua is assistant professor of history at Williams College, Massachusetts and author of *The Republic of Arabic Letters: Islam and the European Enlightenment* (Belknap Press, 2018), which was selected as one of the Times Literary Supplement books of the year and awarded the Herbert Baxter Adams Prize from the American Historical Association.

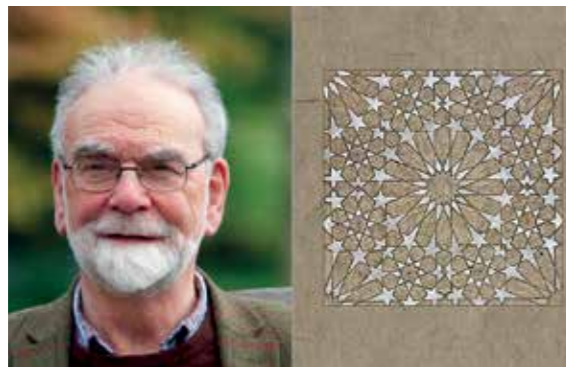
## The Mizan Thesis: on Islamic Civilisation

Ahmed Keeler is a Visiting Fellow at the Centre of Islamic Studies, University of Cambridge, and was a Distinguished Fellow at The Faculty of Leadership and Management, Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia in 2016. He received an Honorary Doctorate of Laws from the University of Bolton in 2016. At the age of 70, Ahmed Paul Keeler finally yielded to a friend's insistence that he should make available to others the knowledge he had gained from such a rich life, by writing a book. The result was *Rethinking Islam and the West: a New Narrative for the Age of Crises*, a work which questions the modern world's obsession with progress, and proposes that the true criterion for judging the success of a civilization should be that of mizan or balance. This principle makes it possible to see the history of Islam and the West in an entirely new light.

11 MAY 2022

### Book Launch – A Life's Journey: The Story behind a Book

Ahmed Paul Keeler, Visiting Fellow, Centre of Islamic Studies  
Faculty of Asian & Middle Eastern Studies, Cambridge



In this book, Ahmed Paul Keeler recounts an extraordinary life that began in the 1940s with an idyllic childhood in a conservative Christian family in Windsor, and continued with the trauma of an English boarding school education intended to prepare him for running a British Empire that, by the time he left, no longer existed. Life then took him through three years of drama school and the angst of modern theatre, five years' involvement with the cutting edge of modern art, an immersion in the 60s

counterculture and then, through a series of life-changing encounters, led him to embrace Islam.

A born organizer, Keeler was producing plays as a teenager, and in his 20s set up and ran the pioneering Signals Gallery which promoted kinetic art. However, on another scale altogether was his creation of the World of Islam Festival of 1976. Opened by Her Majesty the Queen, this was the largest and most comprehensive cultural event of its kind ever to have taken place in London. Following this success, Keeler initiated and was engaged with various projects relating to Islamic civilization, traditional culture and the environment, the greening of inner cities and the interaction between cultures and civilizations in the pre-industrial age.

**A Life's Journey is the companion volume to *Rethinking Islam and the West*, and tells the intriguing story behind Keeler's challenging thesis.**

## From Konkan to Coromandel – Deccan Heritage, Art and Culture

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

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.

10 SEPTEMBER 2021

### Begums and Maids: A History of the Deccan through its Female Protagonists

Manu Pillai (Author)

From the thirteenth century, down to the eighteenth, the Deccan was home to some remarkable women. Their contributions straddle everything from poetry and intellectual thought to war and diplomacy. Could we, potentially then, reconstruct the history of the Deccan through their eyes? In this lecture, Manu S. Pillai will highlight the lives, careers, and ideas of some of the key female figures of the late medieval and early modern Deccan. Covering the sultanates as well as the Maratha state, and featuring begums and ranis as well as a kitchen maid, we will discover how these women challenged received wisdom and tropes and expressed ideas so bold that they still resonate. Together they encapsulate a fascinating chapter of Indian history that can tell us a lot about politics, dissent, and how we ourselves perceive the past and its inhabitants.

Manu S. Pillai is the author of *The Ivory Throne* (2015), *Rebel Sultans* (2018), and *The Courtesan, the Mahatma & the Italian Brahmin* (2019). His fourth book releases in September 2021.

22 SEPTEMBER 2021

### Monumental Jinas and Networks of Prestige: Jain Temples of the Hoysala Capital

Katherine Kasdorf (Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA))

The capital of the Hoysala dynasty (ca. 1000–1346 CE), in present-day Halebidu, Karnataka, is best known for its elaborately sculptural Hoysaleswara temple, dedicated to Shiva. Yet the Hoysala-period city (then called Dorasamudra) was home to numerous temples serving multiple religious communities. Dorasamudra's Jain temples were among the most prominent in the city, attracting elite patronage, artistic innovation, and royal attention. In this talk, Dr Kasdorf will look to the Parshvanatha temple, its inscriptions, and other Jain material from Dorasamudra—including two more monumental Jinas—to explore the role of Jain temples in the Hoysala capital and the prestigious networks in which they participated.

Katherine E. Kasdorf is Associate Curator of Arts of Asia and the Islamic World at the Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA).



12 NOVEMBER 2021

### "A Victory Tower Built by a Slave": The Chand Minar at Daulatabad

**Mohit Manohar (Yale University)**

The Chand Minar (1446) at Daulatabad Fort is one of the tallest pre-modern stone minarets in the world and has long been recognized as a major work of Indo-Islamic architecture. Yet surprisingly little is known about the building: its iconography and the reason for its construction have not been established; not even its height is certain. My talk analyzes the building's architecture and urban context and critically reads its inscriptions against the *Tārīkh-i Firishṭa* (ca. 1610), the main primary text for the history of the medieval Deccan. In so doing, I demonstrate that the Chand Minar was commissioned by an African military slave to impress upon the then-reigning

sultan, 'Ala' al-Din Ahmad II (r. 1436–58), the value of retaining in his court dark-skinned officers from India and Africa (dakkaniyān) at a time when their standing was threatened by the lighter-skinned gharībān, who had immigrated from the western Islamic regions. The lecture thus presents a detailed study of an important but neglected monument while shedding new light on racial factionalism in the fifteenth-century Deccan.

Mohit Manohar is an Andrew W. Mellon Fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts and a Ph.D. Candidate in the History of Art department at Yale University.

8 APRIL 2022

### Cloth that Changed the World: Histories and Contemporaneity of Kalamkari Making

**Prof. Sarah Fee (Royal Ontario Museum) & Rajarshi Sengupta (University of British Columbia)**



This talk will consider the printed and painted cottons – often known as kalamkari – made in the Deccan, and coastal southeast India, in the past and in the present. The first speaker, Sarah Fee, will present a recent exhibition at the Royal Ontario Museum, "*The Cloth that Changed the World: India's Painted and Printed Cottons*", that featured numerous examples of these uniquely coloured and intricately patterned cloths made in coastal Andhra Pradesh, including a formerly unknown set of monumental 17th-century hangings likely made for a Nayaka ruler and palace. The second speaker, Rajarshi Sengupta, will consider the modern artistry in the making of this storied cloth.

(Copyright Bangalore International Centre)

29 APRIL 2022

### The City of Haidar as a Shi'i Paradise: Divine Sovereignty, Built Space, and Shi'i Materiality in Qutb Shahi Hyderabad

**Dr Karen Ruffle (University of Toronto)**

Karen Ruffle is Associate Professor of South Asian Islam in the Departments of Historical Studies and Study of Religion at the University of Toronto. Her research focuses on devotional texts, ritual practice, and Shi'i material practices in South Asia. Her books include *Everyday Shi'ism in South Asia* (2021) and *Gender, Sainthood, and Everyday Practice in South*

*Asian Shi'ism* (2011). Her current projects include a monograph titled, *Building the City of Haider: Kingship, Urban Space, and Shi'i Ritual in Qutb Shahi Hyderabad* and a large-scale study of South Asian Shi'i material culture and sensorial practices titled, *Barakah Bodies: Shi'i Materiality, the Sensorium, and Ritual in India and Pakistan*.

20 MAY 2022

### The Vīraśaivas / Liṅgāyats of 12th century Karnataka: Conflict, Transformation, and the Genesis of a New Creed

**Dr Tiziana Lorenzetti (International Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS))**

Graduating from the University of Rome 'La Sapienza', Tiziana Lorenzetti obtained her PhD. in '*History of the Art of India and Oriental Asia*' from the 'University of Genoa (Italy)'. She was Postdoctoral Fellow at 'National Museum Institute of the History of Art', New Delhi, and Lecturer in Indian Art and Culture at the Sapienza of Rome.



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3 JUNE 2022

### Reflections on Jaina and Vira-Śaiva Interactions in the Art and Architecture of Karnataka

**Dr Julia A.B. Hegewald (University of Bonn)**

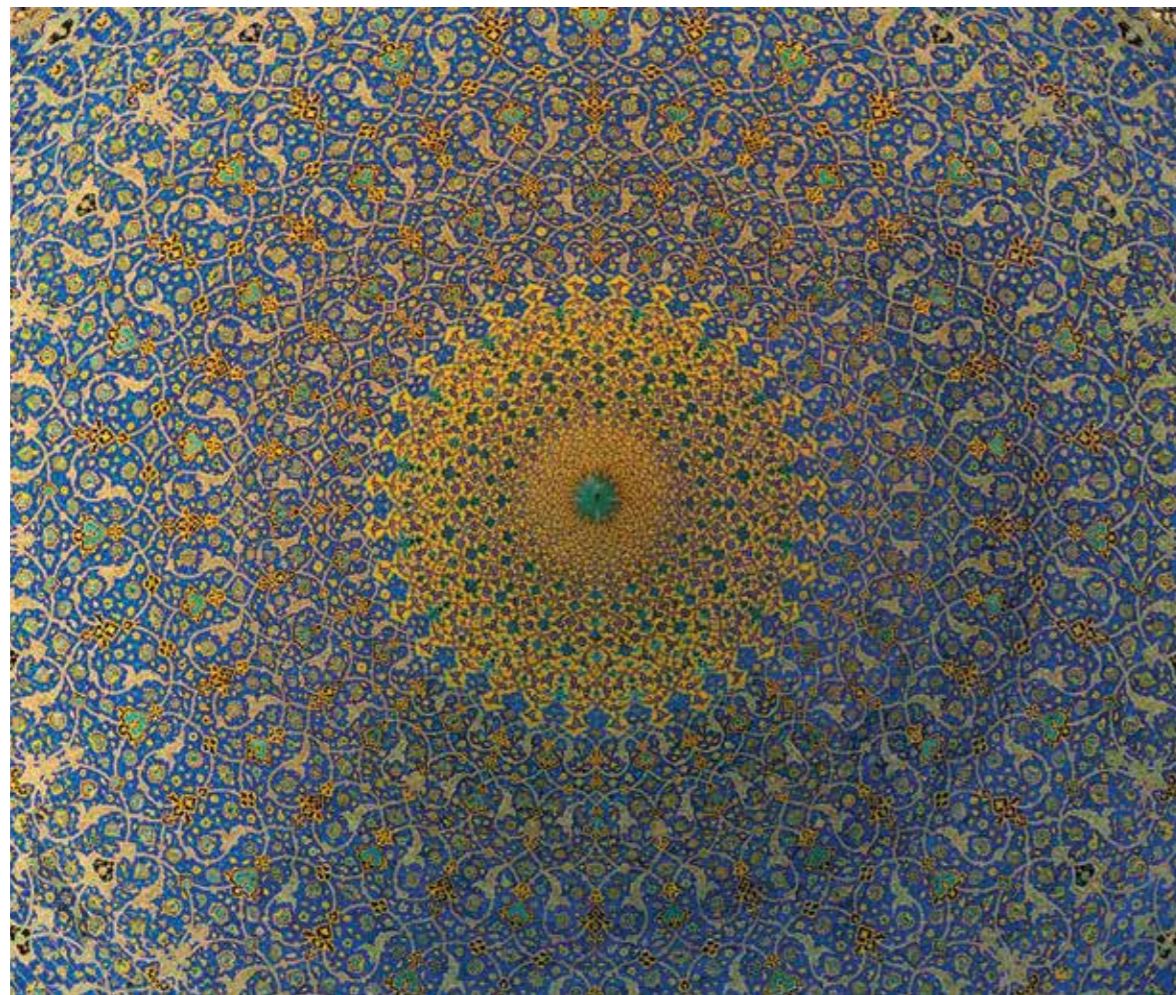
Julia A. B. Hegewald graduated from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, from where she also obtained her PhD. After postdocs in Oxford and Heidelberg, she was Lecturer and then Reader at the University of Manchester. She is now Professor and Head of the Department of Asian and Islamic Art History at the University of Bonn.

17 JUNE 2022

### "A Cosmopolitan yet Local Tradition" Glazed Tiles in the Deccani Sultanates

**Mr Arthur Millner**

Arthur Millner is a consultant and independent scholar in the field of Indian and Islamic art. He lectures at the London School of Oriental and African Studies, the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Royal Asiatic Society and the Oriental Rug and Textile Society. He is the author of numerous articles and the 2015 book, *Damascus Tiles* (Prestel).



## ART EXHIBITION

*The Centre of Islamic Studies appoints a Research and Outreach Associate to focus on Islamic art, aesthetics and/or material culture. For 2021–22 this was Dr Vivek Gupta who created, organised and curated this wonderful exhibition.*

15 OCTOBER 2021 – 13 MARCH 2022

### Shahzia Sikander: "Unbound", on feminist responses to Persian and Indian painting

**West Court Gallery, Jesus College, Cambridge**

Shahzia Sikander is a Pakistani-American visual artist who works across a variety of mediums, including drawing, painting, printmaking, animation, installation, performance and video. We were privileged to be able to co-host an exhibition of her work.



Promiscuous Intimacies 2020



## ARTWORKS

### Owners:

SKNY – Sean Kelly New York, Tenth Ave, New York  
 Pilar Corrias – Pilar Corrias, Eastcastle St, London  
 FL – Farhad and Lewin, Pembridge Square, London

Name	Materials	Dims	Ref	Owner
<i>Promiscuous Intimacies</i> , 2020	patinated bronze – edition of 5 with 2 APs (#5/5)	42 x 24 x 18 inches (106.7 x 61 x 45.7 cm)	(ShS-S.20.066.5)	SKNY
<i>Facing the Shadow</i> , 2019	signed by the artist, verso – ink, gouache and gold on paper	15 x 11 1/2 inches (38.1 x 29.2 cm)	(SHS-WP.19.060)	SKNY
<i>Squaring the Shadow</i> , 2019	signed by the artist, verso – ink, gouache and gold on paper	15 x 11 1/2 inches (38.1 x 29.2 cm)	(SHS-WP.19.061)	SKNY
<i>The Shadow's Struggle</i> , 2, 2020	signed by the artist, verso ink, gouache and gold on paper	15 x 11 1/2 inches (38.1 x 29.2 cm)	(SHS-WP.20.100)	SKNY
<i>Empire Follows Art: States of Agitation 1</i> , 2018	signed by the artist, verso – ink and gouache on paper	paper: 16 x 12 inches (40.6 x 30.5 cm) framed: 21 11/16 x 18 5/16 x 1 1/2 inches (55.1 x 46.5 x 3.8 cm)	SHS-WP.18.082	SKNY
<i>Empire Follows Art: States of Agitation 6</i> , 2020	signed by the artist, verso – ink and gouache on paper	16 x 12 inches (40.6 x 30.5 cm)	(SHS-WP.20.081)	SKNY
<i>Empire Follows Art: States of Agitation 7</i> , 2020	signed by the artist, verso – ink and gouache on paper	16 x 12 inches (40.6 x 30.5 cm)	(SHS-WP.20.084)	SKNY
<i>The Shadow's Struggle</i> , 1, 2020	signed by the artist, verso – ink, gouache and gold on paper	15 x 11 1/2 inches (38.1 x 29.2 cm)	(ShS-WP.20.100)	SKNY
<i>Maligned Monsters I</i> (2000)	Aquatint with sugar life spitbite, dry point and chine collé on Somerset textured paper. Edition of 40. Publisher: Eminence Grise Editions. Printer: Gregory Burnet.	29 3/4 x 22 1/4 inches. Image: 19 1/2 x 12 1/2 inches.		SKNY
<i>Maligned Monsters II</i> (2000)	Aquatint with sugar life spitbite, dry point and chine collé on Somerset textured paper. Edition of 40. Publisher: Eminence Grise Editions. Printer: Gregory Burnet.	29 3/4 x 22 1/4 inches. Image: 19 1/2 x 12 1/2 inches.		SKNY
Fatima Mernissi, 2018	Ink and gouache on Paper	40.6 x 29.2 (cm) 16.0 x 11.5 (inch)	framed, hang on wall	Pilar Corrias

Name	Materials	Dims	Ref	Owner
Zarina, 2018	Glass mosaic	62 5/8 x 43 3/4 inches		Pilar Corrias
<i>Motif as Transition II</i> , 2013	Ink, gouache on hand prepared paper	203 x 20 x 173 cm	SIKA 2013023	FL
Khilvat I			SIKA2021012	Pilar Corrias
Khilvat II			SIKA2021013	Pilar Corrias
<i>Empire Follows Art: States of Agitation 12</i> , 2020	signed by the artist, verso – ink and gouache on paper	16 x 12 inches (40.6 x 30.5 cm)	SIKA2020027	Pilar Corrias
No Parking at any time	set of 9 etchings (framed)		SIKA2001002	Pilar Corrias
Series of Transformations 5			SIKA 2009041	Pilar Corrias



Khilvat I & II – Zarina



Looking towards *Motif as Transition II*, 2013



*Promiscuous Intimacies* 2020 – in position outside West Court Gallery

## CIS SYMPOSIA

The Centre of Islamic Studies aims to promote a constructive and critical understanding of the role of Islam and Muslims in wider society. One important focus of our work is Muslims in the UK and Europe, although we are also interested in Islam and Muslim communities in other parts of the world. We aspire, through rigorous research and dynamic public outreach, to disseminate knowledge and facilitate informed discussion between academics, policy-makers, the media, business and the public with an interest in Islam in the contemporary world.

11 – 12 FEBRUARY 2022

### Shahzia Sikander at Jesus College: Archives, Contemporary Practices, and Decolonisation

Frankopan Hall, Jesus College, Cambridge

The global affiliations of the practice of Shahzia Sikander allows scholars from multiple fields to revisit their own work with a critical eye. This public symposium, Shahzia Sikander at Jesus College: Archives, Contemporary Practices, and Decolonisation, held in in response to the exhibition *Shahzia Sikander: Unbound* at the West Court Gallery (16 October 2021–18 February 2022), examines Shahzia Sikander's practice and its relationship to several broad

themes, including but not limited to: Islamic art, modern and contemporary South Asian art, queer and feminist visual practices, and decolonial politics.

Shahzia Sikander (b. 1969) is a world-renowned Pakistani-American artist who has pioneered the study of Islamic and Indian painting for contemporary practices. She is the recipient of numerous awards including the U.S. State Department's Inaugural National Medal of Art awarded by Secretary of State Hilary Clinton in 2012. *Shahzia Sikander: Unbound* involves the first-ever outdoor installation of Sikander's bronze sculpture *Promiscuous Intimacies* (2020) and new paintings made in dialogue with the collection of the Fitzwilliam Museum.



Shahzia Sikander 2019

11 FEBRUARY 2022

#### 13:00 – 13:45 Introduction

Welcome – Jessica Berenbeim, Fellow and Curator, Jesus College, Cambridge

#### Introductory Lecture

*Grasping for her Necklace: Shahzia Sikander Unbound* at Jesus College

Vivek Gupta, Postdoctoral Associate, Centre of Islamic Studies and Jesus College, Cambridge

#### 14:00 – 15:30 The Multiple Archives of Shahzia Sikander



Chair: Siddharth Soni, Isaac Newton Trust Fellow, Faculty of English and Jesus College, Cambridge

*Shahzia Sikander: Becoming an American Artist in 1990s New York*

Alex Dika Seggerman, Assistant Professor, Rutgers University-Newark

*To permit the visible to shape the invisible: Shahzia Sikander and the question of Islamic art*  
Taushif Kara, Postdoctoral Associate, Centre of Islamic Studies and Jesus College, Cambridge

*Not All Who Wander Are Lost: Dislocation in the Art of Shahzia Sikander and Zarina*  
Aparna Kumar, Lecturer in Art and Visual Cultures of the Global South, University College London

#### 16:00 – 16:15 "Double S: Notes, Infinities and Shards" by Bhanu Kapil

Poem written in response to *Shahzia Sikander: Unbound*

#### 16:15 – 17:15 Keynote Discussion

Shahzia Sikander, artist

Glenn Lowry (ZOOM), The David Rockefeller Director of the Museum of Modern Art, New York  
Partha Mitter (In-Person), Emeritus Professor in Art History, University of Sussex

#### 17:30 – 19:00 Exhibition Closing Reception & Screening of *Disruption as Rapture* in the Frankopan Hall



12 FEBRUARY 2022

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee

**11:00 – 12:00 Sikander's Queer Optic and Contemporary Practice**

Chair: Alyce Mahon, Professor of Modern & Contemporary Art, and Fellow of Trinity College, University of Cambridge

*Promiscuous Intimacies: Shahzia Sikander's Queer Curatorial Practice*

Gayatri Gopinath, Professor; Director of the Center for the Study of Gender & Sexuality, New York University

*Disorienting Time: Shahzia Sikander's Artistic Research and its Queering Agency*  
Denis Maksimov FRSA

**12:15 – 13:15 Shahzia Sikander and Global Politics**

Chair: TBD

*The Miniature Explodes*

Faisal Devji, Professor of Indian History, University of Oxford, St Antony's College

*Still Standing*

Dan Hicks, Professor of Contemporary Archaeology at the University of Oxford with Victor Ehikhamenor, artist

13:15 – 14:00 Lunch

The CIS Research Associate, Dr Vivek Gupta, was instrumental in the project as curator of the exhibition, Recipient of £10k grant from the Bagri Foundation, Recipient of grant from the Intellectual Forum, Jesus College, and organizer of the symposium and supervisor of assistant curators.

Review: <https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2021/12/09/shahzia-sikander-jesus-college-cambridge-restitution-colonial-loot>

10 FEBRUARY 2022

**Queer Curation and Aesthetic Practices: Gayatri Gopinath and Sunil Gupta in Conversation**

**Convenor: Vivek Gupta, Research Associate**

Gayatri and Sunil were in conversation in person about queer curation; a fantastically delicious aperitif to the Shahzia Sikander symposium on Friday 11 February.

9 MARCH 2022

**Critical Perspectives on Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies**

Room 7 of the Lecture Block, Sidgwick Avenue



An in-house event where we bring all the CIS researchers and Fellows together for a research day.

**09:40** Paul Anderson – *Commerce and Patriarchy in pre-war Aleppo*

**10:10** Khaled Fahmy – *Rethinking the 1967 Arab-Israeli war*

**10:40** Break

**11:10** Amina Shareef – *Besieged Life and Vigilante Power in An Age of Terrorism*

**11:40** Ahmed Paul Keeler – *A chapter from his new book – A Life's Journey*

**12:15** Lunch

**13:20** Taushif Kara – *The Venture of Islamic studies: Pakistan and the formation of a discipline*

**13:50** Yomna Helmy – *Maqāṣid discourse from Islamic modernism to theorising authoritarianism, Bin Bayyah and the politicisation of maqāṣid al-sharī'ah*

**14:20** Nader Hashemi – *How Authoritarianism is Destabilizing the Middle East and Our World*



20–22 MAY 2022

## Cultural Hybridity in the Mediterranean

### Mohammed Ali Institute, Imaret, Kavala, Greece

Co-organised by Elizabeth Key Fowden and Deniz Türker and co-funded by the Centre of Islamic Studies, Faculty of Classics and History of Art Global Humanities fund (all of the University of Cambridge) the first associated workshop was convened at the Imaret built by Mohammed Ali in Kavala.

The Kavala workshop was devoted to the cultural hybridity of embroidery across the eastern Mediterranean region. Like woven textiles, embroidery is individual, local and regional. As objects, embroideries belong to a particular place, but travel easily. They bear in their shared and adapted motifs and materials the imprint of cultural and religious diversity, while at the same time carrying the individual stories of their place of origin, their makers and collectors. This workshop brings together historians, curators, and archaeologists to discuss how to communicate and present the dynamic transference of materials, patterns, and forms through these often-overlooked objects across the Eastern Mediterranean.

Anna Ballian inaugurated the workshop with a public lecture on 'Art and material culture in Ottoman Greece', setting the parameters of discussion around issues of taxonomy. Participants debated the inherent challenges of taxonomy between ancient, Byzantine, Ottoman and modern Greece, between 'Hellenic' and 'Oriental' material culture, in the Aegean and wider Mediterranean context. Workshop participants focused especially on the often entangled backgrounds of the collectors. Ann French's presentation focused on the legacy of the ground-breaking Cambridge scholar Alan



J.B. Wace, whose archives and personal textile collections have been dispersed across the Cambridge Classics Faculty, Pembroke College, the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, the Fitzwilliam Museum, as well as the British School at Athens and the Liverpool Art Museum.

Dedicated to the interdisciplinary study of Hellenism and the Islamic world, the Mohammed Ali Research Center (MOHA) in Kavala provided the ideal setting for our workshop, which brought together participants from University of Cambridge (History of Art, Classics and Centre of Islamic Studies), Whitworth Art Gallery (Manchester), V&A (London), Sadberk Hanım Museum (Istanbul), Calouste Gulbenkian Museum (Lisbon), Benaki Museum (Athens), Thessaloniki Aristotle University, University of the Mountains (Crete) and the Ephorate of Kavala.

### Friday evening public lecture:

Anna Ballian (emerita curator, Benaki Museum of Islamic Art, Athens) – Delivered in Greek, with English translation available:

*Τέχνη και υλικός πολιτισμός στην οθωμανική Ελλάδα: ανάμεσα στην ιστορία και την παράδοση* (Art and material culture in Ottoman Greece: between history and tradition)

### Saturday morning introduction:

Deniz Türker and Elizabeth Key Fowden (History of Art and Centre of Islamic Studies/Classics, University of Cambridge, Cambridge)

### Opening presentation:

Ann French (Whitworth Gallery, Manchester) – *Understanding the legacy: The embroidery collecting of RM Dawkins & AJB Wace*

### Saturday workshop presentations:

Carol Humphreys & Deniz Türker (History of Art and Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge) – *Archaeology and ethnology between Hellenic and Oriental*

Xenia Politou (Benaki Museum, Athens) – *Greek embroideries between East and West*

Lale Görünür (Sadberk Hanım Museum, Istanbul) – *Curating and caring for the Sadberk Hanım Museum Textile Collection*

Michalis Lychounas (Ephorate of Antiquities, Kavala) – *Embroideries of the Eastern Orthodox Church from the Byzantine tradition to the Ottoman world*

Rachel Dedman (Victoria and Albert Museum, London) – *Curating Palestinian embroidery*

Nikolaos Vryzidis (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Thessaloniki) – *Global perspectives on later Byzantine textile culture*

Jessica Hallett (Gulbenkian, Lisbon) – *Embroideries in gendered narratives at the Calouste Gulbenkian Museum*

Barbara Tertzis (Penelope Gandhi Mission, University of the Mountains, Crete) – *‘στησαμένη μέγαν ιστόν ἐνὶ μεγάροισιν ὕφαινε’ (Homer, Odyssey, B 94)*

The workshop forms part of a wider study funded by a Cambridge-Stockholm Collaborative Research Grant (2020–2023) designed to bring together a core group of scholars from Cambridge and Stockholm, joined by colleagues from Greek, Turkish and other UK institutions. For more details see – [Greece Between Europe and Asia](#).



14 JUNE 2022

## Greek Dialogues Online – Aegean embroideries: Archaeology and ethnology between Hellenic and Oriental

Dr Deniz Türker (CIS) and Dr Elizabeth Key Fowden (Cambridge)  
Online, Cambridge



Dr Deniz Türker and Dr Elizabeth Key Fowden discuss how to communicate and present the dynamic transference of materials, patterns, and forms through embroideries, often overlooked objects, across the Eastern Mediterranean.

Like woven textiles, embroidery is individual, local and regional. As objects, embroideries belong to a particular place, but travel easily. They bear in their shared and adapted motifs and materials the imprint of cultural and religious diversity, while at the same time carrying the individual stories of their place of origin, their makers and collectors.

This episode of Greek Dialogues Online will sum up and develop some of these issues arising out of a workshop in Kavala (May 2022) that brought together curators, archaeologists and art historians to consider questions of taxonomy and historical contextualisation in the Aegean region, and open out the discussion to a wider audience.

The Kavala workshop is the first of three meetings of the Cambridge-Stockholm seed grant 'Greece between Europe and Asia: regionality, religion and materiality', directed by co-PIs Tim Whitmarsh, Arja Karivieri and Elizabeth Key Fowden.

## CONFERENCES: ADVANCING ACADEMIC AND PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE

The study of Islam at the End of Empire	34
The Creation of Shi'a Identity: Religion, History, and Community from the 16th to the 21st century	36





## CONFERENCES: ADVANCING ACADEMIC AND PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE

The Centre runs, sponsors or participates in, numerous conferences – both in Cambridge and elsewhere. Our research associates are an integral part in this, helping to broaden knowledge of Islam and the Muslim world in academic and public spheres.

25 MARCH 2022

### The study of Islam at the End of Empire

**Taushif Kara, Research Associate**  
Aga Khan Centre, London



An IIS-Cambridge workshop on the study of Islam at the end of empire. The workshop brings together scholars of Muslim thought in order to reassess and reconsider a critical moment in the making of modern Islam: the transition from orientalism to “Islamic Studies”. It foregrounds the possibility that the academic study of Islam emerged not as some orphan of empire but as an entirely distinct intellectual enterprise intimately linked with the arrival of post-colonial sovereignty. Workshop papers will consider how Islam was and is approached as a field of study, but also how formerly colonised actors imagined new worlds and modes of political subjectivity for themselves through the container of “Islam” and its histories.

09:00 – 09:30 Registration

#### 09:30 – 11:00 After Orientalism

Hussam Ahmed (Maynooth University)  
*Adab at the University: Taha Hussein and the Institutional Foundations of a Political Project*

Farzana Shaikh (Chatham House)  
*Orientalist Misgivings: Muhammad Asad and the ‘question’ of Sufism in Pakistan*

Hana Sleiman (Cambridge)  
*Hadith as Historiography: Asad Rustum’s Muṣṭalah al-Ta’rīkh*

#### 11:00 – 12:30 The study of Islam and political thought

Shruti Kapila (Cambridge)  
*Iqbal’s discovery of political Islam*

Negin Yavari (Leipzig)  
*Postprandial Vignettes and Homemade Soaps: The feminist political in Iran*

Amar Sohal (Cambridge)  
*The Muslim’s Hindu: Sovereignty, Nationalism, and Tawhid*

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch

#### 13:30 – 15:00 Beyond Islamic Studies

Fitzroy Morrissey (Oxford)  
*Islamic Studies as Humanism: Samuel Stern, Marshall Hodgson, and the modern study of Islam*

Megan Brankley Abbas (Colgate) [via zoom]  
*Beyond the Emic-Etic Distinction: Two cases from modern Indonesia*

#### 15:00 – 15:45 Exhibition

During this break, participants will have the option to view the exhibition Wladimir Ivanow and modern Ismaili Studies, on view at the Aga Khan Centre gallery.

A tour of the building will also be arranged for those who are interested.

#### 16:00 – 17:30 Keynote address

Faisal Devji (Oxford)  
*The Proper Name*

This keynote address, building on these broad workshop themes, explores the question: when and why did Islam come to be conceived of as a proper name?

17:30 Refreshments

18:00 Dinner

**Partner:** The Institute of Ismaili Studies



23 – 24 MAY 2022

## The Creation of Shi'a Identity: Religion, History, and Community from the 16th to the 21st century

**Dr Emanuelle Degli-Esposti**  
Woolf Institute



A two-day workshop supported by funding from the British Academy on 'Shi'a identity and belonging across time and space' in collaboration with Christopher Bahl at Durham.

DAY 1 – 23 MAY 2022

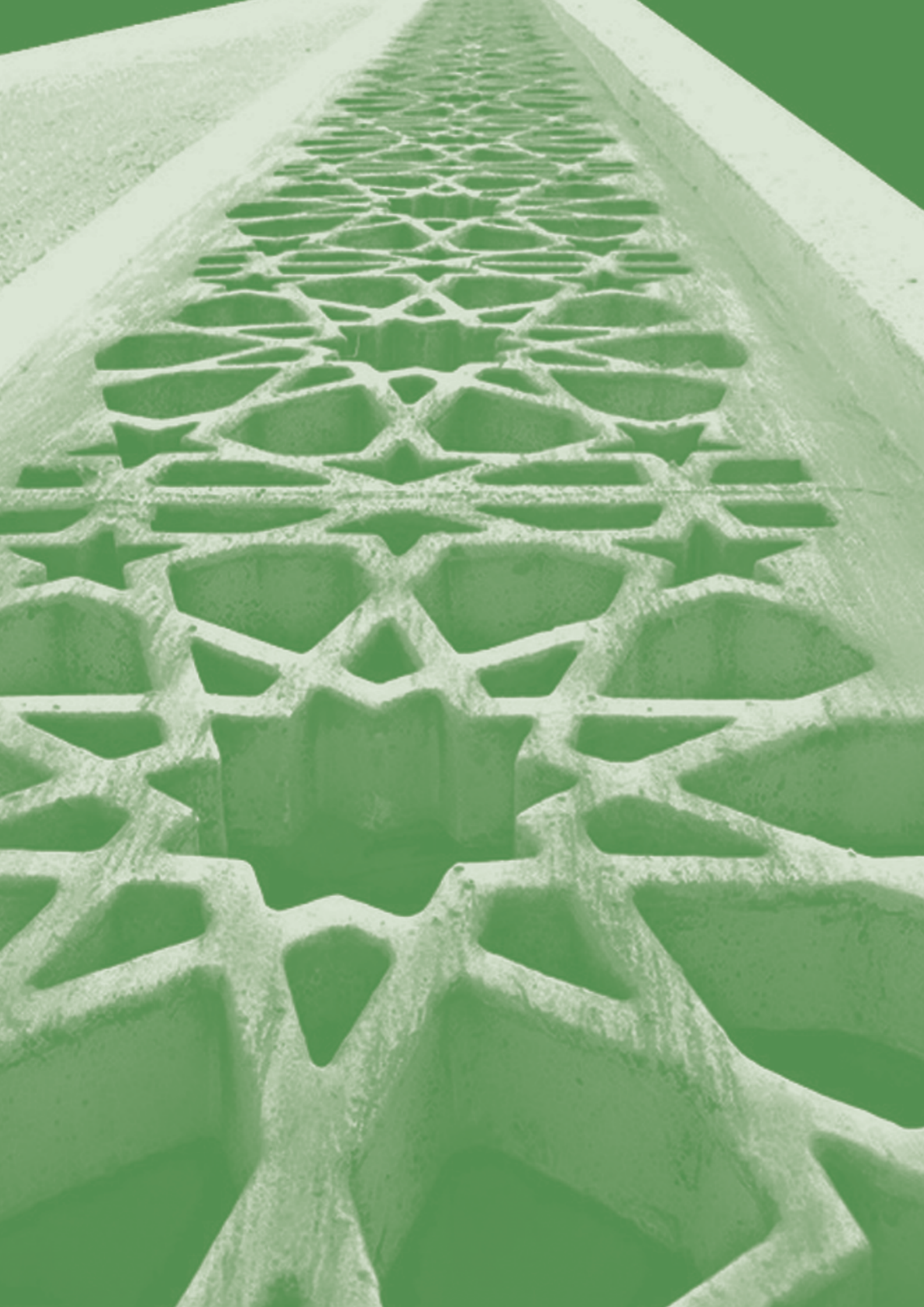
- 09:30 Registration and coffee
- 10:00 **Welcome and Introduction:** Emanuelle Degli Esposti and Christopher Bahl
- 10:15 *Shi'i shrine cities, Persianate courts and the transregional politics of a Sayyid from sixteenth-century Medina*  
Christopher Bahl, Durham University
- 11:15 Tea and Coffee
- 11:30 *Understanding Satpanth Ismā'īlī Identity: Transhistorical and Transnational Perspectives*  
Hussain Jasani, The Institute of Ismaili Studies, London
- 12:30 Lunch, Westminster College Dining Hall
- 13:45 *Revealed Knowledge: Shi'i thought and the modern study of Islam*  
Taushif Kara, University of Cambridge
- 15:45 Tea and Coffee
- 16:00 *The role of temporary marriage in the formation of a 'modern' Islamic sexual and relational ethics for halal dating among young pious Muslim men*  
Iman Lechkar, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium
- 17:00 End of Day 1
- 19:00 Workshop dinner: **The Punter, 3 Pound Hill, Cambridge, CB3 0AE**

DAY 2 – 24 MAY 2022

- 09:30 Coffee
- 10:00 *Shia and/or Bahraini? Community and Belonging among Shia Bahrainis in Bahrain and London*  
Thomas Fibiger, Aarhus University
- 11:00 Tea and Coffee
- 11:15 *Racialising Religion: Islam, Multiculturalism, and the Politics of Ethnonormativity in Europe*  
Emanuelle Degli Esposti, University of Cambridge
- 12:15 Lunch, Westminster College Dining Hall
- 13:30 *Transnational Kuwaiti Giving and the Proliferation of Shi'i Identity in East and West Africa*  
Mara A. Leichtman, Michigan State University
- 14:30 **Final Discussion and next steps**
- 16:00 End of Workshop







## TEACHING AND SCHOOLS / CURRICULUM OUTREACH

Arabic Language Teaching Programme

40

Schools and Curriculum Outreach

42



faty/habib



## TEACHING AND SCHOOLS / CURRICULUM OUTREACH

The Centre's goal is to continue to build and develop relationships with the public sector in Cambridgeshire and beyond to raise awareness of the role of Islam and Muslims in wider society as well as promoting better understanding of Islam. The Centre aims to engage with different faith groups, mosques, churches, health service, social workers, Muslim and non-Muslim communities, police, prison, lawyers and Muslim organisations to offer knowledge and expertise and organise seminars and talks on issues facing Muslims in contemporary Britain.

### 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. In 2021–22 our Teaching and Outreach Associate, Yomna Helmy took three levels of students:

- Modern Standard Arabic for Beginners (11 students)
- Intermediate Modern Standard Arabic (22 students)
- Advanced Modern Standard Arabic (15 students)

In total, 48 students and researchers attended CIS Arabic classes last year. Courses and resources are designed to train students in classic and Modern Standard Arabic at all stages of proficiency. While developing Arabic reading, listening, speaking, and writing skills, the comprehensive coursework allows students to be immersed in the language and discuss Arabic texts from various periods of Arab and Islamic history.



### Arabic courses feedback:



*"Yomna is very good at pacing for those students who are less confident (like me), and the separation of activities into group work really helps with that – not being on the spot all the time. I feel very fortunate for the fact that I enrolled in the CIS Arabic course which helped me to be prepared not only with my language skills but also learning ways to enhance Arabic eloquence and fluency".*

Student, Intermediate Arabic,

*"Yomna provided a great number of resources and taught the fundamentals of the grammar at a good pace, making sure that all the students were involved. She set a good level of homework and, in the later terms, was happy to tailor the course to the interests of those involved. I learned a lot and will be signing up to the intermediate course this coming year".*

Student, Beginner Arabic,

*"Our wonderful teacher, Yomna, ensures the classes are always interesting, challenging and relevant, and there is a strong focus on writing and verbal communication. Course materials are supplemented with topical news articles, short videos and poems, and texts about Arabic literature, history and culture. Yomna creatively adapted the classes to the researchers, encouraging us to create and share presentations to practise our written and speaking skills. I would highly recommend the course to anyone thinking of studying Arabic at advanced level!"*

Student, Advanced





## SCHOOLS AND CURRICULUM OUTREACH

### Schools and Colleges Engagement:

Yomna worked 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:

- Reading Girls' School, Reading – Workshops on Contemporary debates about Islam. Four workshops were offered to multiple year groups throughout the year as following:
  - Year 10 (90 students) 13/10/2021
  - Year 11 (60 students) 02/02/2022
- King's School Hove, East Sussex – Two-day Workshop on Tackling Islamophobia 24th and 25th June 2022
- Morpeth Sixth Form, London – Basic Beliefs & Practices of Islam (60 students) – 21/10/2021
- Comberton Village College, Cambridge – Two Workshops on War and Peace from Islamic Perspectives (140 students) 19/01/2022



- Cambourne Village College – Cambridge – All day Workshop on Islam & Environment (120 students) 05/02/2022
- St John Payne Catholic School, Essex – Workshop on Basic Beliefs and Practices of Islam – (45 students) 08/03/2022
- St Matthew's Primary School, Cambridge – Workshop on Basic Beliefs and Practices of Islam – (60 students) 21/03/2022
- Manningtree High School, Essex – 2 year 10 group (60 students) attended a workshop on Islamic basic beliefs and practices on 05/07/2022 and 3 year 11 groups (90 students) attended a workshop on the contemporary debates about Islam on 14/07/2022



### 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 Muslims.

- Staff training on Islamic Finance and Students Loan at Challney Boys High School, Luton. 25/09/2021 & 06/03/2022
- Online Teacher Training for over thirty RE teachers on Teaching about Islam at A-Level hosted by Oxford Cambridge and RSA (OCR) Religious Studies 29/10/2021

### Curricula Review

Yomna serves as a consultant and reviewer with Hodder Education and Illuminate Publishing to help review and improve GCSE and A-Level textbooks that include content about Islam.



### Feedback

#### Schools:



*"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.



## Feedback

### 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. We will need reviews like this on a number of upcoming books. 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.”*

Dr Thea Gomelauri, 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 Ark has been using The CIS Outreach service for our staff. We have been so pleased with the professionalism, flexibility and passion shown by Yomna for making a difference to our staff and young people. We have already seen tangible results and hope to continue using the service in future.”*

Tom, The Ark Foundation

”

## SUPPORTING STUDENTS





## SUPPORTING STUDENTS

### Centre of Islamic Studies Postgraduate Studentships

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

Details of research studentships held in 2021–22 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's 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."

Amina did her BSc in Neurobiology & Physiology at Purdue University, and followed this with her Master of Education at the same establishment.



**Theo Rossi**  
**PhD Student**

Theo Rossi's dissertation examines the neglected history of mental healthcare in khedival Cairo (1805–1884), drawing on Arabic medical textbooks and journals, as well as archival

government sources. She aims to demonstrate that khedival mental healthcare was characterized by dynamic institutional and discursive shifts, the study of which can provide new insights into how the Egyptian state developed, how modern medicine emerged in the Middle East, and how psychiatry coalesced as a global discipline. In particular, her dissertation focuses on: the realities of "madness" and confinement during the 19th century; how Egyptian doctors produced and engaged with vibrant new forms of psychiatric discourse; and how political and social pressures shaped conceptions of madness and its treatment.

Theo received her master's degree from the University of Oxford in Modern Middle Eastern Studies and her bachelor's from the University of Chicago. She is also pursuing a master's in Arabic Language Pedagogy from Middlebury College and is a 2022–23 Center for Arabic Study Abroad (CASA) Fellow at the Qasid Institute in Amman, Jordan.



**Samuel Martin**  
**PhD Student**

Samuel's research is on literary portrayals of and reactions to Saudi Arabia's entry into 'petromodernity'. He examines how novelists conceive of urban environments as

composite spaces whose constitutive sites are held in tension by historicizing and modernizing forces. By identifying and interrogating key sites—landfills and cemeteries, roads, office buildings, book markets, and palaces—, Samuel exposes the twinned senses of nostalgia and anxiety that pervade a society whose modernizing project is fundamentally precarious owing to the finitude of its economic motor: oil. His methodology draws from such fields as literary urban studies, the energy humanities, and ecocriticism.

Samuel holds a BA in Asian and Middle Eastern Studies and an MPhil by Research in Arabic Studies from the University of Cambridge. His master's dissertation, *Dead Man Laughing: A Typology of Humour and Laughter in Modern Syrian Literature and Its Relationship to the Abject*, was awarded the Council for British Research in the Levant's 2021 Master's Dissertation Prize for Levantine Studies.



**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 AND RESEARCHERS

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



### 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.

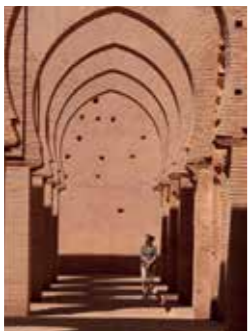


### Dr Ryan Williams

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 Elizabeth Key Fowden

Senior Researcher, Impact of the Ancient City, Faculty of Classics, University of Cambridge

Islam in the Greek world is an abiding theme in Elizabeth Key Fowden's research, which draws on architectural, visual and textual sources to analyse cultural, religious and intellectual exchange. Spanning from late antique Syria to Ottoman Greece to the late nineteenth-/early twentieth-century Aegean to contemporary Arab art, her publications include *The Barbarian Plain: Saint Sergius between Rome and Iran* (1999), *Studies*

on Hellenism, Christianity and the Umayyads (with Garth Fowden, 2004), 'The lamp and the wine flask: Early Muslim interest in Christian monasticism' (2007), 'Jerusalem and the work of discontinuity' (2019), 'The Parthenon Mosque, King Solomon and the Greek Sages' (2019) and 'The circle in the work of Kamal Boullata' (2021). She is currently completing a monograph, *The Parthenon Mosque*.

Fowden's collaborations with CIS have included the exhibition, *Jerusalem in Exile: Artist's Books by Kamal Boullata* and its associated symposium in January 2020, at Jesus College, and a workshop on Mediterranean embroideries, co-organised with former CIS Research Associate Deniz Türker, with the support of Tim Whitmarsh and the Cambridge Centre of Greek Studies, hosted at the Mohammed Ali Research Center in Kavala, Greece, as part of the Cambridge-Stockholm Collaboration on 'Greece between Europe and Asia: regionality, religion, and culture' (2020–2023), of which Fowden is a co-PI.



### Dr. Sertaç Sehlirkoglu

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](http://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.

**Research Interests:** 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

*Research Associates are usually appointed by invitation only.*



**Dr Abdullah Baabood**

Dr Abdullah Baabood's research interests focus on the states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), primarily their economic, social and political development and their external relations. He has published widely on these topics. Abdullah is a graduate in Business and Economics and holds a master's degree in Business Administration (MBA), a master's in International Relations (MA), and a PhD from the University of Cambridge. He is also a member of several academic and professional bodies.



**Dr Chaoqun Lian**

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



**Dr Hawraa Al-Hassan**

Dr Hawraa Al-Hassan is an associate fellow of the Higher Education Academy, having taught Arabic and modern history of the Middle East at the University of Cambridge. Hawraa completed her PhD in Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Cambridge and gained an MA in Comparative Literature at University College London. She is interested in the cultural history of the Arab world in so far as it relates to totalitarianism, propaganda and nationalism. Hawraa's research focuses on interdisciplinary approaches to the Arab novel as a conduit of group identities. Her current project explores Iraqi Ba'thist involvement in the production of literary and media discourses on gender and nation, whilst considering the potential of resistive 'counter-public' spaces, be they Islamic or secular.



**Dr Jeremy Henzell-Thomas**

From 2000–2010, Dr.Jeremy Henzell-Thomas was the Founding Executive Director of the Book Foundation, a registered UK charity which works with partner institutions in the UK and the USA to improve understanding of Islam in the West. He was the first Chair of the Forum Against Islamophobia and Racism (FAIR), and is currently a member of the Executive Committee of the Association of Muslim Social Scientists



(AMSS UK) and a member of the Advisory Board of the Prince Alwaleed Centre for the Study of Islam in the Contemporary World at the University of Edinburgh. A Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, he speaks and writes widely on the themes of education, culture, society and spirituality, having written regular reflections over the years for *Islamica* and *emel* magazines, and more recently for the Credo column in *The Times*. Jeremy's current research interests include Islam and pluralism, inter-cultural and holistic education, and shared values. A former lecturer in Applied Linguistics at the University of Edinburgh, he is also engaged in research which applies his academic specialism of psycholinguistics to contemporary issues affecting public perception of Islam and Muslims.



**Dr Khaled Hroub**

Dr Khaled Hroub's areas of research include the contemporary history and politics of the Middle East with a focus on Islamism and its political manifestations; the socio-political and cultural impact of the 'new' media in the Arab world; the role of public intellectuals; and the Arab novel. He has published widely on Hamas and political Islam. Currently he is writing a book critique of the Arab renaissance project. He also publishes weekly articles in leading Arab and world media.



**Dr Yonatan Mendel**

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

VISITING RESEARCHERS



**Dr 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, Muḥammad '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-Ḥalīm Maḥmūd (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 Nader Hashemi**

Nader Hashemi is the Director of the Center for Middle East Studies and an Associate Professor of Middle East and Islamic Politics at the Josef Korbel School of International Studies at the University of Denver. He is a Non-Resident Fellow at Democracy for the Arab World Now (DAWN). His research and intellectual interests lie at the intersection of political theory, international relations and comparative politics. Specifically, he has a keen interest in debates on religion and democracy, the politics of authoritarianism, democratic and human rights struggles in non-Western societies, Islam-West relations and US foreign policy. His next book project focuses on the global destabilizing effects of Middle East authoritarianism. It is tentatively titled: *"How Authoritarianism is Destabilizing the Middle East \*and\* Our World."*



**Dr Kassim Alsraih**

Kassim Alsraih's research is located at the interface between Islamic studies, contemporary intellectual history and politics of the Middle East. His work engages contemporary issues of citizenship, democratization and reformism in the Arab world, with a particular focus on the Gulf States.

He is also interested the legal history and Arab minority in the Naqab. Kassim has published widely on the topics of religion and state, minorities, citizenship and leadership.



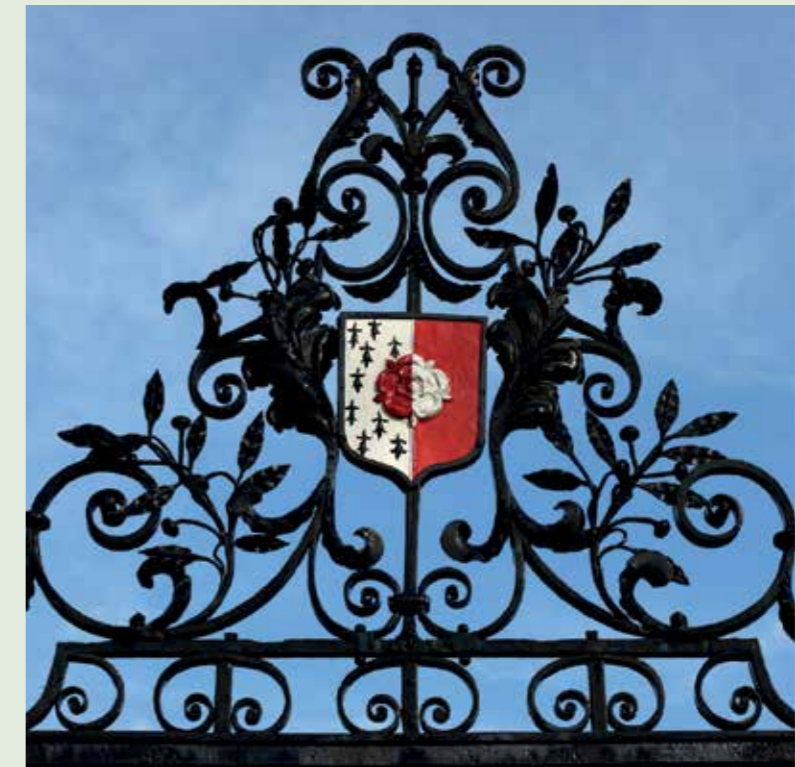
**Dr Monika Lindbekk**

Dr Monika Lindbekk works as a researcher at the University of Bergen as part of the CanCode-project. The project focuses on processes of canonization and codification of Islamic law: How does Islamic law Change? Canonization and Codification of Islamic Legal Texts. Her research at Cambridge investigates Egyptian courts' adjudication of Muslim marriage and divorce law before and after the 2011 uprising. The study aims to contribute to the growing scholarly literature on the implementation of shari'a-based family codes by describing and analyzing the gender implications of religiously inspired judicial activism. A further aim is to shed light on the intersection between law and religion in this field and how legal reasoning is shaped by a modern, positivistic conception of law. At the core of this study was an analysis of judicial practise at five Cairenese family courts. To investigate how Cairenese family courts integrate various social classes into what they regard as the essence of Islam, she draws material from five family courts in different neighbourhoods in Cairo from 2011–2015.

**Recent Publications:**

- Lindbekk, Monika and Bassam Bahgat. 2021. *Blasphemy and the Cultivation of Religious Sentiments in post-2011 Egypt*. In *Blasphemies Compared: Transgressive Speech in a Globalised World*, edited by Anne Stensvold. London: Routledge.
- Lindbekk, Monika. 2021. *Conversions*. In *2016: How it felt to live in the Arab World five years after the 'Arab Spring'*. Special issue of *Journal of Arabic and Islamic Studies* 21: 50–55.
- Lindbekk, Monika and Teresa Pepe. 2021. *Court Trials*. In *2016: How it felt to live in the Arab World five years after the 'Arab Spring'*. Special issue of *Journal of Arabic and Islamic Studies* 21: 57–66.

## PARTNERS





## PARTNERS

### Gulf Research Centre-Cambridge (GRC-C)

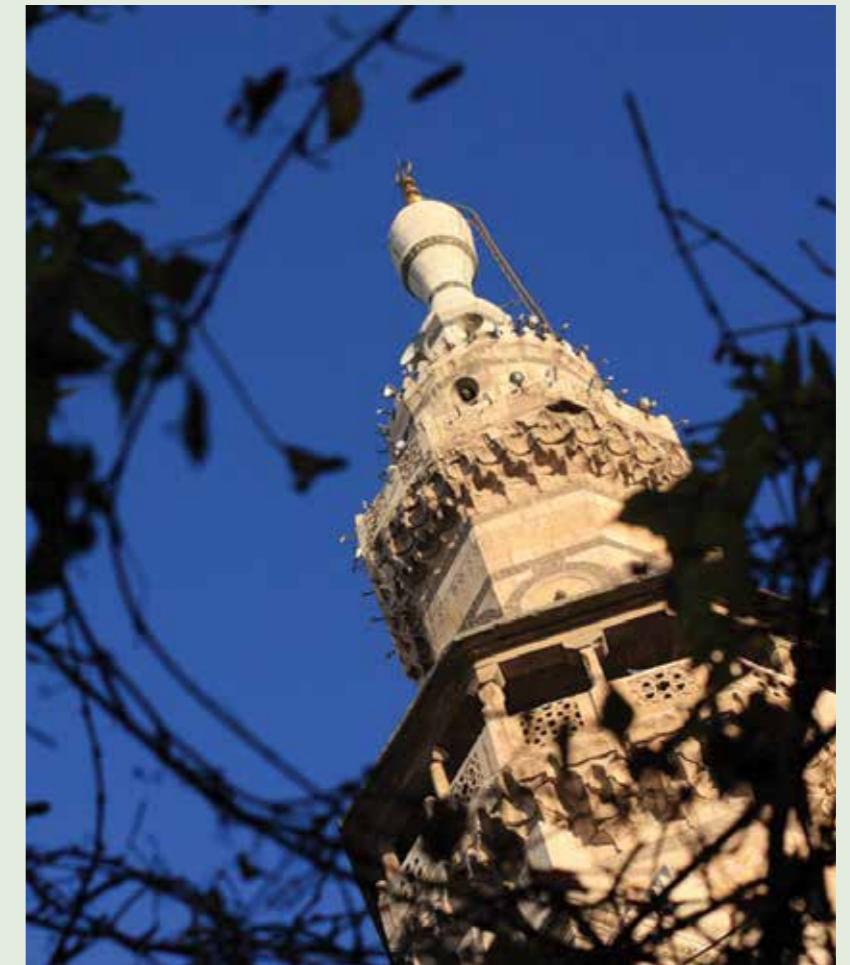
The Gulf Research Centre Cambridge (GRC-C) is the Gulf Research Centre office in Cambridge, UK. GRC-C is a registered UK Charity, cooperating closely with the Centre of Islamic Studies at the University of Cambridge. The prime directive of GRC-C is to advance education and research on political, economic,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

The Gulf Research Centre Cambridge organises the annual Gulf Research Meeting (GRM) which seeks to provide an academic environment to foster Gulf studies and promote scholarly exchanges

among scholars working on/or having familiarity with the Gulf region. GRM identifies subjects of importance to the Gulf region, stimulates research in these subjects, and provides a forum for broad dissemination of the research results. Motivated by the same objectives underlying the Gulf Research Meeting, GRC-C also serves as a platform for other events throughout the year and provides a focal point for students dedicated to carrying out and promoting critical research related to the Gulf.

The Gulf Research Centre Cambridge is a registered charity organization under the Charity Commission for England and Wales and can therefore receive tax-deductible donations.

## CENTRE STAFF 2021/22



## CENTRE STAFF 2021/22



### Director

#### Prof. Khaled Fahmy

Professor Khaled Fahmy is the Director of the Centre of Islamic Studies, His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Sa'id Professor of Modern Arabic Studies, and a Fellow of King's College, Cambridge. He is a historian of the modern Middle East, with a specialty in the social and cultural history of nineteenth-century Egypt.

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

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

Fahmy's forthcoming book, *In Quest of Justice: Islamic Law and Forensic Medicine in Modern Egypt*, provides the first full account of the establishment and workings of a new kind of state in Egypt in the

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

### Research Projects

#### 1967 Arab-Israeli War

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

### Articles, Book Chapters etc

- Rudolph Peters and the History of Modern Egyptian Law *Legal Documents as Sources for the History of Muslim Societies: Studies in Honour of Professor Rudolph Peters* pp. 12–35 (2017)
- The crisis of the humanities in Egypt *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East*, 37:1 pp. 142–148 (2017)
- 'Inab wa Basal: 'Abd al-Hakim 'Amir wa Qarar Insihab al-Jaysh al-Misri min Sina' fi Harb Huzairan 1967 (in Arabic) *Majallat al-Dirasat al-Falastiniyya*, 28:110 (2017)
- The defeat of the Egyptian army in 67 (in Arabic) *Bidayat*, no. 17 (2017)
- 1967: a structural and continuing defeat (in Arabic) Khaled Mansour (ed.) *Tashrih al-Hazima* (2017)





### Assistant Director

#### Dr Paul Anderson

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

Research Interests: social and political anthropology of the Arab world (especially Syria), particularly traders, markets and trust relations.

#### Courses:

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

#### Dr Anderson's research publications include:

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

#### Conference and Seminar Papers:

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

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



### 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.

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## COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT 2021–22

Professor Chris Young  
Chair

HRH Princess Lamia bint Majed  
Secretary General of Awaleed 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



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PRINCE ALWALEED BIN TALAL CENTRE OF ISLAMIC STUDIES

University of Cambridge / Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies / Sidgwick Avenue / Cambridge, CB3 9DA

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