

OCIS NEWS

OXFORD CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC STUDIES

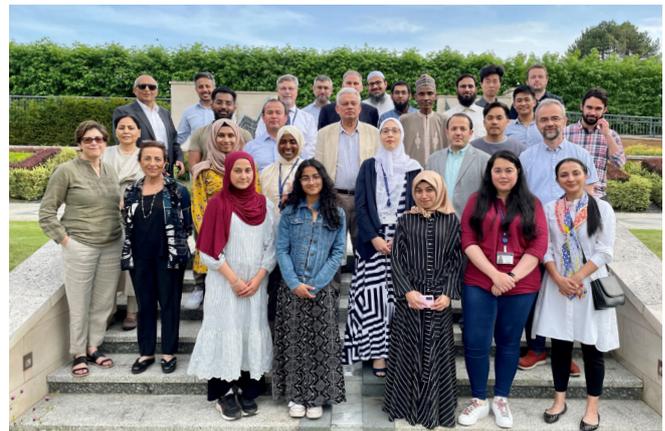
Visiting Fellowship Programme Building academic bridges

The Centre’s Visiting Fellowship Programme continues to flourish. Over the course of the upcoming 2022–23 academic year, the Centre will welcome a record total of 32 Visiting Fellows and Visiting Research Fellows. The incoming cohort originates from a wide range of countries across five continents, including representation from all regions of the Islamic world.

The Centre supports visiting scholars from a vast scope of academic disciplines – their research covering a rich variety of topics of relevance to Islam or the Muslim World. Subjects this year include: classical Quranic studies, sustainable economic development, transcultural art histories and immigration studies, among others.

The 2021–22 academic year saw some 26 visiting scholars from a range of cultural and academic backgrounds spend between one and three terms at the Centre. With the welcome return of in-person events, they have been able to benefit fully from the Centre’s various activities; this includes the weekly Fellows’ seminars, which provide an opportunity for academic members to share their research in a mutually supportive and enriching academic space.

During their residence, Visiting Fellows form an



Some of the Centre’s Fellows, Visiting Fellows and Scholars at a reception integral part of the Centre’s community. Through their contributions to scholarly dialogue and exchange – within the Centre, in Oxford, as well as further afield – they play an active role in the advancement of the Centre’s core aim of building bridges between different cultures, societies and traditions of learning.

Applications for Visiting Fellowships for the 2023–24 academic year are now open: further information can be found on the Centre’s website.

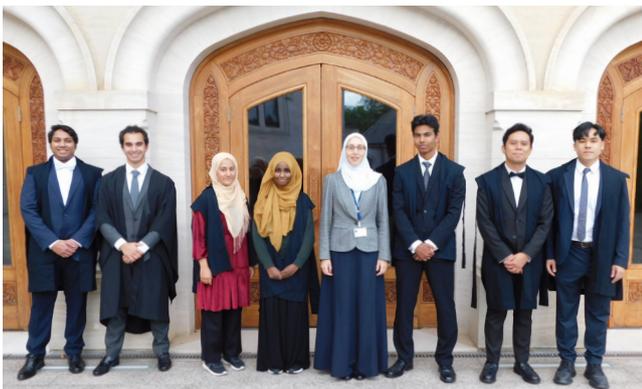
New cohort of scholars Widening educational access

As the Centre welcomes a new cohort of Centre Scholars in October 2022, it will be celebrating the milestone of more than 100 scholarships granted since the inception of the Scholarship Programme. It is thanks to the generosity

of benefactors in the UK and overseas that the Centre has been able to support so many students with their studies at the University of Oxford.

Established with the aim of widening access to the University, the programme has become one of the most active in Oxford – providing full funding (tuition fees and living expenses) for undergraduate and postgraduate students pursuing many different degrees. Certain scholarships are restricted to citizens of countries in Asia and Africa, whilst others are for British citizens from Muslim communities.

In the 2022–23 academic year, ten new Scholars will begin their courses. The subjects to be studied include Economics for Development, Diplomatic Studies, Global History, Islamic Studies, Water Science Policy & Management, International Health & Tropical Medicine, Jurisprudence, and Politics, Philosophy & Economics.



New Scholars with the Dean of Scholars in Michaelmas Term 2021

International Contacts

The following seminars and lectures will take place in Michaelmas Term:

Professor Vali Nasr (Johns Hopkins University), 'Continuity and Change in US Strategy toward the Middle East and the Islamic World'.

Dr Anne Wolf (All Souls, Oxford), 'Ben Ali's Tunisia: Power and Contention in an Authoritarian Regime'.

Dr Adnan Naseemullah (King's College London), 'Righteous Demagogues: The Moral Economy of Populism'.

Professor Şevket Pamuk (Boğaziçi University), 'Turkey's Economic Development and Political Economy since 1980'.

Dr Fitzroy Morrissey (All Souls), 'Actualizing Ideal Islam: Principles of Islamic Revival at the Dawn of Modernity'.

Lord McDonald of Salford (Master, Christ's College Cambridge), 'Why the Palestinians Still Don't Have a State, and Why Their Need is More Urgent Than Ever'.

Dr Elife Biçer-Deveci (Universität Bern), 'Islamic Prohibition, National Regulations and International Norms'.

Dr Humeira Iqtidar (KCL), 'Islamic Socialism: Radical Individuality and Equality?'.

Keith Griffin Lecture

Professor Chris Blattman (University of Chicago), 'Why We Fight: The Roots of War and the Paths to Peace'.

Jordan



HE The Ambassador of Jordan with the Director and the Registrar

HE The Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Mr Manar Dabbas, visited the Centre on 11th August. Following a tour of the building, the Ambassador met with Centre Fellows, and was introduced to the Centre's ever-developing range of research projects, academic activities and outreach programmes.

Malaysia

The Centre continues to enhance its longstanding links with Malaysia. In July, HM the Queen Consort of Malaysia, Tuanku Azizah Aminah of Pahang, visited the Centre. She discussed with Fellows the advancement of



HM The Queen Consort of Malaysia

the Centre's research projects, as well as the success of collaborative programmes, including the Khazanah-OCIS Merdeka scholarship, awarded to Malaysian students pursuing postgraduate degrees at Oxford University.

Qatar

The Centre received a visit by HE Mr Fahad Mohammed Al-Attiyah, Ambassador of the State of Qatar, on 27th June. After the Ambassador was given an overview of the Centre's work and introduced to some of its



HE The Ambassador of Qatar

Fellows, discussions centred around ways of developing the Centre's current projects, and building upon academic collaboration with institutions in Qatar.

Kuwait

On 30th June, the Centre hosted a visit by HE Mr Khaled Al-Duwaisan, on the occasion of the completion of his tenure as Dean of the Diplomatic Corps. A longstanding friend and supporter of the Centre, the Dean has attended many visits and events since he became Ambassador of Kuwait in 1993. The Centre held a lunch in his honour, attended by senior diplomats and local officials.



HE The Dean of the Diplomatic Corps and Mrs Al-Duwaisan

Morocco

HE Mr Hakim Hajoui, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco, visited the Centre on 6th June. This provided an opportunity to focus on the strengthening of the Centre's academic links in North Africa. Arising from discussions about the potential for collaboration, the Centre will be hosting a workshop on Morocco, in partnership with the Embassy, in October 2022.



HE The Ambassador of Morocco with the Director

Saudi Arabia

On 19th May, the Centre welcomed a delegation from the Shura Council of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, led by HE Dr Ghazi bin Faisal bin Zaqar. The Shura Council Members were introduced to the Centre's academic activities and international network, including its long-standing links with educational institutions in Saudi Arabia.



Members of the Shura Council of Saudi Arabia

Lectures on history and political thought Rethinking Empire and Orientalism

On 13th June, acclaimed historian and author William Dalrymple delivered a lecture on ‘The Anarchy: The East India Company, Corporate Violence & the Pillage of an Empire.’ Drawing on his most recent book, Dalrymple gave an expert account of the rise of the East India Company and its contribution to the decline of the Mughal Empire. He reflected on how this story of the first global corporate power resonates with that of the growth of modern international corporations today. The Q&A session focused on the importance of encouraging a deeper understanding of British



William Dalrymple

colonial history and its lasting legacies. As perspectives on the past shift and adapt, the availability of accurate and accessible historical narratives becomes more important than ever.

The Centre also hosted two events in Trinity Term led by Professor Wael Hallaq. A leading scholar in Islamic law, Professor Hallaq is the Avalon Foundation



Professor Wael Hallaq

Professor in the Humanities at Columbia University, where he teaches ethics, law and political thought. Speaking on 18th May at a Centre seminar, Professor Hallaq took as his title ‘Truth, Knowledge and Power in Islam Before the Nineteenth Century: A Heuristic Perspective on the Separation of Powers and the Rule of Law’. He then delivered a special book seminar on 21st May, leading a series of open discussions about the central ideas of two of his most recent works, *Restating Orientalism* (2018) and *Reforming Modernity* (2019).

The Centre’s *Journal of Islamic Studies*, published by Oxford University Press, continues to be a leading publication in the study of Islam and the Muslim world. The *Journal* seeks to encourage interdisciplinary studies of the Islamic world that are crossnational and comparative, as well as to advance interaction among academics from various traditions of learning. The *JIS* has over 2000 institutional subscribers from all over the world.

January’s issue of the *Journal* contains articles by I-Wen Su, on ‘Alī b. al-Madīnī (161–234/778–849): A critical reconstruction of his biography and evaluation of his contribution to Hadīth criticism’, Rozaliya Garipova, on ‘From *kolkHoz* to pulpit: Rashida *abistay* and female religious authority in Soviet and post-Soviet Russia’, and George Joffé, on ‘Authoritarian resilience and the absence of democratic transition: the implications of 2011’.

May’s issue contains articles by Ibrahim Zein and Ahmed El-Wakil, on ‘The Siffin Arbitration Agreement and statecraft in early Islamic political documents’, and Aydogan Kars, on ‘A “Sufi” epistle on spiritual poverty, and its authors: authenticity, authority, and genre in textual reproduction’. Both issues contain reviews of some of the most recent publications about Islam and the Muslim World.

Discussions on Equality and Human Rights

The Centre continues to uphold its commitment to promoting dialogue about key social issues of national and global importance. Themes within equality and human rights are explored through seminars and lectures, research undertaken by Fellows and Visiting Fellows, and visits by senior figures in the field. On 13th July, the Centre welcomed the Chair of the Equality and Human Rights Commission, Baroness Falkner of Margravine. This provided an opportunity to discuss the ways in which the Centre works to encourage intercultural understanding and tolerance.

Several seminars in Trinity Term discussed equality and human rights in the Muslim World. On 11th May, a seminar was delivered by Hon Justice Imman Ali, on the subject of ‘Islam and Child Rights: The Role of Religion in the Development of the Law’. Justice Ali has served as a Justice of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh since 2011; he is currently

involved with law reform in relation to the Children’s Act. On 8th June, Professor Kabiru Chafe, a Visiting Fellow at the Centre, spoke on the subject of ‘The Quest for Reforms of Islamic Systems of Education in Nigeria’. Professor Chafe is the Director of the Arewa Research and Development Project, which aims to address issues of underdevelopment in the Northern states of Nigeria.

This focus on equality and human rights continues in Michaelmas Term, with talks on the rights of Palestinians (Lord McDonald, 16th November) and on Islamic Socialism (Dr Humeira Iqtidar, 30th November).



Baroness Falkner, Chair of the
Equality and Human Rights
Commission

Project on Public Health, Science and Technology

This interdisciplinary research project continues to grow and develop. Three lectures took place in Trinity Term: Professor Hagan Bayley spoke on 'The Remarkable Science of Nanopores'; Professor Erica Charters and Professor Mark Harrison lectured on 'Epidemics, Continuity and Change'; and Professor Lionel Tarassenko discussed 'Applications of Machine Learning in Healthcare'. Three more lectures will be given in Michaelmas Term.

The project's Principal Investigator, Professor Shahid Jameel, was recently appointed as a Chair of the Pathogens Project taskforce at the *Bulletin of Atomic Scientists*.

Young Muslim Leadership Programme Recognising potential, raising ambitions

The Centre's sixteenth Young Muslim Leadership Programme took place from 24th June to 3rd July 2022. The Programme inspires British Muslims to aim high in their careers, particularly through involvement in public life. It is organised in partnership with The Prince's Charities. This year, the Centre welcomed 21 British Muslims from professional backgrounds including medicine, politics, the civil service, banking, law, academic research and engineering. The Centre hosted the participants for ten days, providing accommodation, in-house catering and lecture facilities.

Alongside leadership training, the Programme featured speakers who are experts in British public life. This year there were 26 speakers, including two Trustees of the Centre: His Eminence Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar, the Sultan of Sokoto, and the Rt Hon Dominic Grieve KC, former Attorney General for

England and Wales. The participants also spent a day in London, where they attended Q&A sessions with Members of Parliament.

The Alumni Day on 2nd July was well attended

by previous YMLP participants, providing an opportunity for this year's cohort to form connections with other professionals in their fields – nurturing the broad and supportive YMLP alumni network. The YMLP is coordinated annually by Dr Asma Mustafa, Salahuddin Abdul Jawad Fellow at the Centre.



His Eminence The Sultan of Sokoto

If you wish to unsubscribe from this Newsletter, please email: ocisnews@oxcis.ac.uk

OXFORD CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC STUDIES

Marston Road, Oxford, OX3 0EE, UK

Tel: +44 1865 278730 Fax: +44 1865 248942 Email: islamic.studies@oxcis.ac.uk

www.oxcis.ac.uk