

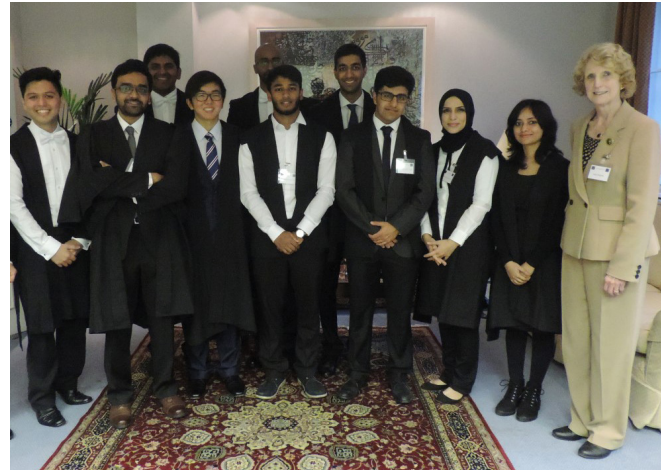


## Expansion of the Centre's Scholarship Programme

Thanks to the continuing generosity of its benefactors from the UK and overseas, the Centre is an increasingly significant source of funding for prospective students at the University of Oxford. Currently it supports twenty-six students, postgraduate and undergraduate, which takes the total number of awards made over the last eight years to seventy.

This year the Centre welcomes three new undergraduate students and eight new postgraduate scholars. The undergraduate students are: the Yousef Jameel Scholar, Ms Faiza Rahman, reading Law at Exeter College; the Barclays Scholar, Mr Haseem Shah, reading Economics and Management at St Edmund Hall, and the Kasim Darwesh Scholar, Mr Ismaile Noah Yaqub, reading Physics at University College.

The eight new postgraduate scholars are: Mr Adli Ali (MSc Integrated Immunology) Linacre College, Merdeka Scholar; Mr Muhammad Tanvir Ali (MEng Engineering) Magdalen College, Kasim Darwesh Scholar; Mr Mohamed Elmi (MSc Mathematics and Theoretical Physics) Balliol College, Tun Mahathir Scholar; Ms Doaa Hammoudeh (DPhil Social Policy) St Antony's College, Easa Saleh Al



*Lady Judith English (right), Dean of Scholars, with the new scholars welcomed to the Centre*

Gurg Scholar; Dr Mohamed Anisul Karim (MSc Global Health Science) Magdalen College, Yousef Jameel Scholar; Mr Mohd Hakimi Bin Mohd Kassim (DPhil Physiology, Anatomy, Genetics) Wolfson College, Merdeka Scholar; Mr Yue Jin Oh (DPhil Biosciences) St Hugh's College, Merdeka Scholar; and Mr Rabin Patmanathan (MSc Sociology) Nuffield College, Merdeka Scholar.

## New Fellowship Appointments

### Sultan of Oman Fellow

The new appointment for the Sultan of Oman Fellow is Dr Michael Feener. Dr Feener is an internationally recognised scholar who has taught, researched and published widely on the history of the Islamic world. He specialises in Southeast Asia, with a particular focus on the modern history of Indonesia.



*Dr Michael Feener*

Dr Feener comes to the Centre from a senior academic position at the National University of Singapore. He has also previously taught and conducted research at Boston University, at the University of California, Riverside and at Harvard.

### Mohamed Noah Fellow

Also joining the Fellowship, as the Mohamed Noah Fellow, is Dr Talal Al-Azem. His research interests include Islamic law, history and philosophy of education. His previous appointments were at Pembroke College and the Oriental Institute of the University of Oxford.



*Dr Talal Al-Azem*

### Arabic Instructor

The Centre has appointed Dr Rabia Bajwa as its new Arabic Instructor. Dr Bajwa did her doctorate at Georgetown. She comes to the Centre from an appointment at the School of Oriental and African Studies.

## Transmission of Learning

The Centre's Michaelmas Term seminar series examined different aspects of 'The Transmission of Learning in Muslim Societies'.

The subjects covered in this very wide field included Qur'anic sciences; the transmission of Prophetic traditions; Islamic learning and texts in the Turkish world of the fourteenth century; and the historiography (old and new) of the Battle of Manzikert (1071).

The series was exceptionally well attended. It provided participants with an opportunity to interact with the current thinking and research of the invited speakers. All benefited from the rich variety of perspectives that the different disciplines relevant to this field bring to bear.

## Lord Lamont Visits the Centre

The Centre had the opportunity to host a visit by the former Chancellor of the Exchequer, Lord Lamont, who takes a close interest in developments in the Muslim world and especially the Middle East region. Lord Lamont was briefed on the work of the Centre, visited the new building, and shared his views on current issues at a lunch hosted in his honour.

## Lord Carnwath delivers Sultan Azlan Shah Lecture on Facing Climate Change

On the 26th November the Centre hosted Lord Carnwath, a Justice of the Supreme Court, for the Sultan Azlan Shah lecture. He chose as his title, 'Climate Change and the Law'. The lecture was chaired by the Centre's Sultan Azlan Shah Fellow, Lord Phillips of Worth Matravers. A large audience assembled in the Examination Schools to hear Lord Carnwath's authoritative survey of international progress in dealing with the challenges of climate change, in particular through the elaboration of new legal frameworks.

The lecture was particularly timely in that it coincided with the International Climate Change Conference to be held in Paris in the following days. The speaker focused on the

possibility of establishing a new international agreement that might deliver the 'environmental rule of law', and the ways in which the law and the courts could help bridge the gap between the scientific consensus on climate change and effective political action. The lecture concluded with a lively set of questions from the audience, which Lord Carnwath answered in detail.



Lord Carnwath

## International Links

### Malaysia



Tun Abdullah Badawi

Tun Dato' Sri Abdullah Badawi, former Prime Minister of Malaysia, visited the Centre, accompanied by his wife Tun Jean Abdullah. Tun Abdullah Badawi, a longstanding friend, lectured at the Centre during his term as Prime Minister in 2004 on 'Malaysia, Islam and the Wider World'. This welcome return visit concluded with a dinner hosted in his honour.

### Lebanon

HE Mr Fouad Siniora, former Prime Minister of Lebanon, accompanied by HE The Ambassador of Lebanon, was another most welcome special guest at the Centre's



HE Mr Fouad Siniora

new building. Discussion centred on practical ways in which the Centre can strengthen its ties with Lebanon. The guests also had the opportunity to tour the Centre's building and freshly-planted gardens.

### Turkey

The Centre was also happy to host its friend and Trustee, HE Dr Abdullah Gül, former President of Turkey, accompanied by Mrs Gül and by HE The Ambassador of Turkey and his wife. This was an opportunity to review progress on the Centre's new building and gardens, and to host a lunch in appreciation of Dr Gül's strong personal support.



HE Dr Abdullah Gül

### Qatar

The Centre also hosted HE Dr Saleh Al-Nabit, the Minister for Development, Planning and Statistics of the State of Qatar. The possibilities for future collaboration in a number of fields were discussed and, after a lunch hosted in his honour, the Minister had the opportunity to visit the Centre's new building and be briefed on its academic activities, both in Oxford and internationally.



HE Dr Saleh Al-Nabit

# Azman Hashim Fellowship Established

The Centre is pleased to announce the establishment of a new, endowed Senior Fellowship, made possible by the generous support of the Chairman of Ambank, Tan Sri Azman Hashim. This Fellowship for the study of some aspect of contemporary Muslim societies is an important addition to the Centre's academic programmes in Oxford.

The first Azman Hashim Fellow will be

Professor Mark Halstead. He has worked extensively in the field of education, and will co-ordinate the Centre's research project, 'Muslims in Britain.'

*Tan Sri Azman Hashim*



## The Arab World

In Hilary Term the Centre organised a joint seminar series with the Middle East Centre at St Antony's College on aspects of the modern Middle East and related historical developments.

Amongst the topics addressed by fellows from both institutions were analyses of the challenges facing political Islam; the role of the United Kingdom in the past and present of Palestine; the Gulf in the global Cold War; educational and media issues; as well attention to women novelists writing in Arabic and the role of Arabic in global intellectual history.

The joint series proved to be a positive innovation, and bringing together the resources of both institutions enabled a popular series which attracted large audiences throughout the term.

## OCIS-ECSSR Conference Security in the Arabian Gulf

In December 2015 the Centre organised its Third Annual Joint Symposium with the Emirates Centre for Strategic Studies and Research, hosted this year by the ECSSR in Abu Dhabi.

The event was opened by the ECSSR's Director General, Dr Jamal Sanad Al Suweidi. The theme was "Security in the Arabian Gulf: Migration, Technology, Media and Change". The event successfully brought together senior academics, journalists, and participants from public life in the United Kingdom, United States, Russia, China, and the Gulf region. They addressed some familiar themes, but with attention to new aspects and directions.

Senior British participants included Rt Hon Jack Straw, former Foreign Secretary; Rt Hon Andrew Mitchell MP, former Secretary of State for International Development; Lord Richards of Herstmonceux, former Chief of the Defence Staff; Rt Hon Sir Hugh Robertson, former Middle East Minister in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office; and Lt Gen Tom Beckett, Middle East Adviser in the Ministry of Defence.

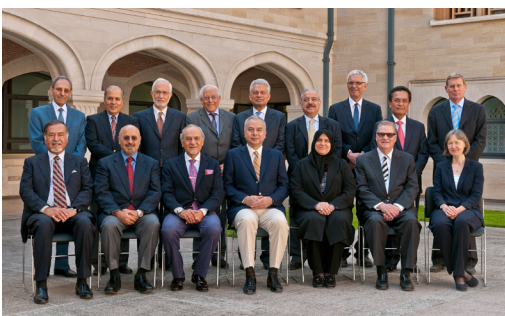
This Symposium is an important element of the Centre's efforts to promote dialogue and mutual understanding of the global challenges facing the Muslim world, and the wider international community.

## Trustees Annual Meeting Building the Future

The Centre's Trustees attended their annual meeting in Oxford on the 10th September 2015, meeting for the first time in the Centre's new building, as well as viewing in more detail the final touches being given to the new

facilities. Their agenda included the traditional annual scrutiny of the Centre's academic work and priorities, as well as its finances and plans for future development.

This was also an opportunity to welcome some new Trustees to the Board: HE Ms Raja Al Gurg (Managing Director of the Easa Saleh Al Gurg Group), Professor Teresa Morgan (as a University nominee) and HE Pehin Abu Bakar (Minister of Education of Brunei Darussalam). They also elected HE Pehin Abdul Aziz Umar and HE Ambassador Easa Al Gurg KCVO CBE as Emeritus Trustees, and expressed their warm appreciation for their many years of devoted service on the Board.



*The Trustees gathered at the New Building*

## Journal of Islamic Studies Volume 26 Numbers 2 & 3

The number of individual and institutional readers of the JIS continues to grow. Two new issues were published recently. The latest (26/3) contains 29 books reviews, and articles by James Muhammad Dawud Currie: 'Kadizadeli Ottoman Scholarship: Muhammad Ibn 'Abd al-Wahhāb and the Rise of the Saudi State', and Hazim Fazlic: 'The Elements that Have Contributed to the Survival of Islam in Tito's Yugoslavia'.



## New Visiting Fellows

The following were visiting fellows in 2015-2016:

Mr Ilker Ersegun Kayhan, BSc (Bilkent) *Abdullah Gul Chevening Fellow*; Mr Arshad Mohamed Ismail, LLB (Hons.) (IIUM), MBA (London): *SC-OCIS Islamic Finance Visiting Fellow*; Professor Jonas Otterbeck, BA, PhD (Lund): *Visiting Fellow*; Professor Tariq Rahman, MA (Peshawar and Sheffield), PhD (Sheffield), MLitt (Strathclyde), DLitt (Sheffield): *Abdul Aziz al-Mutawa Visiting Fellow*; Dr Ning Gu, BA (China), MA (Beijing), PhD (Peking): *Visiting Research Fellow*; and Dr Nicola Gilmour, BA, MA, PhD (Auckland): *Visiting Fellow*.

## Inspiring Young British Muslims YMLP Celebrates Tenth Anniversary



*Sir Vince Cable (centre) with the participants of YMLP 2015 at Christ Church*

The Young Muslim Leadership Programme celebrated its tenth year in 2015 with participants from a range of career backgrounds including the civil service, banking and accountancy, the law, media and digital sectors, non-governmental organisations and academia. The group was able to interact with an array of distinguished leaders from all walks of

British (and international) life, who generously shared their time and insights as well as engaging in discussion.

Speakers included the Rt Hon Baroness Warsi, Ms Rushanara Ali MP, Rt Hon Sir Vincent Cable, Rt Hon Dominic Grieve MP, and Mr Martin Donnelly, Permanent Secretary at the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The Malaysian Minister for Youth and Sport, Mr Khairy Jamaluddin, also addressed participants in a special session.

This year particular attention was given to developing a vibrant network for YMLP alumni (now numbering some 250). This was the focus of discussion on The YMLP Alumni Day, at which the keynote speaker was Sir Tom Shebbeare, former Director of The Prince's Charities and now Chairman of Virgin's charitable organisations.