



Journal of Islamic Studies

Celebrates 30 years of publication

This year the Centre celebrated the thirty years of publication of the *Journal of Islamic Studies* with a special conference.

Published three times a year by Oxford University Press, the Journal covers all aspects of Islam and the Islamic world in the subject areas of history, geography, political science, economics, anthropology, sociology, law, literature, religion, philosophy, inter-national relations, environmental and development issues and ethical questions related to scientific research.

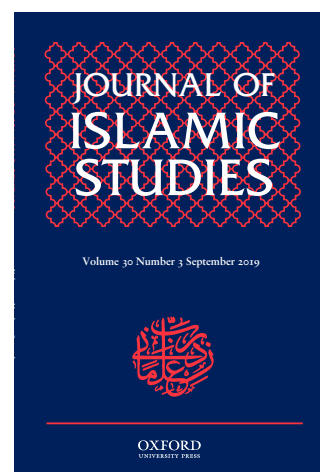
It brings different discourses about Islam and Muslim societies into the same space, enabling specialists in one discipline to be aware of information, ideas and approaches deployed in another.

Last year the publisher (OUP) recorded over 62,000 full-text downloads of the Journal with a 99% subscription renewal rate. 2400 consortia customers have access to the Journal via the 2018 OUP Collection. The Director, in his welcome remarks, thanked OUP for their help and

support.

Twenty-five scholars from across the globe - the UK, the USA, Russia, South Africa and the Arab world - arrived for the two day Oxford conference of presentations and plenary meetings on a wide range of topics that reflected the publication's interests over three decades.

It was an opportunity to encourage interaction among academics from diverse traditions of learning enabling the diffusion, exchange and discussion of their research and reflections and, it is hoped, the conference succeeded in refreshing their intellectual habits while enriching the field as a whole.



Creating opportunities

New cohort of Centre scholars arrive



Centre Fellows with the new scholars at the Freshers' reception

The Centre's Scholarship programme remains one of the most active in Oxford, with some 21 scholars in residence during academic years 2018/19 and 2019/20. These include eight undergraduates and thirteen graduate

students on full scholarships reading for university degrees in History, Law, Physics, Materials Science and PPE. Current scholars are from Britain, Palestine, Malaysia and Turkey.

Induction and welcome events were held at the Centre at the beginning of the academic year. Centre-based mentors are assigned to each scholar for guidance and support during their time in Oxford.

Graduate Colloquia held on a termly basis provide a congenial social environment for the scholars and opportunities for graduate students to present their research to a lay audience and receive constructive feedback on research methodology. Scholars also attended the Centre's inaugural Garden Party in Trinity Term.

The Centre scholarships cover the full costs of the study at the University of Oxford including tuition and college fees and living expenses.

International contacts

Malaysia

Malaysia's Minister of Youth and Sports, Mr Syed Saddiq, visited Oxford as part of the Centre's work of strengthening ties with the country's upcoming generation. Addressing a group of students and academic fellows, Mr Saddiq spoke about the importance of encouraging young people to participate in the democratic process.

Turkey

HE Mr Umit Yalcin, the Republic of Turkey's recently appointed ambassador to the UK, visited the Centre in February and met with the Director and Visiting Fellows.

Indonesia

Professor Syafiq Mughini, Special Envoy of the President of Indonesia for Interfaith and Inter-Civilizational Dialogue and Cooperation visited the Centre. Discussions centred on Indonesia's efforts to promote tolerance, moderation and dialogue between traditions.

India

The Centre was awarded the International Sir Syed Excellence Award for multi-disciplinary work on Islamic culture and civilization. The Director accepted the award at a ceremony at the Aligarh Muslim University, India. The Centre donated the award money to establish a special visiting fellowship position for a scholar from Aligarh Muslim University to be resident at the Centre in the next academic year.

New appointments

Fellow in Qur'anic studies

Professor Yasin

Dutton joined the Centre as a Senior Fellow in the Study of the Islamic World pursuing research interests in early, classical and modern Islamic law. Having completed his MA and DPhil at Jesus College, he moved first to the University of Edinburgh then to the University of Cape Town where he set up and ran an Arabic programme in the School of Languages and Literature.



Research Fellow in Hadith studies

In Hilary term 2020 **Dr**

Belal Alabbas will join the Centre as a Research Fellow working on legal theory and doctrine. He completed his DPhil at the faculty of Oriental



Studies, Oxford in 2018. Dr Alabbas will also seek to build academic networks and foster future collaborations between Al-Azhar University Cairo (where he took his BA and has been a lecturer) and the Centre's academic community.

Visiting Research Fellow

Dr Hanaan Balala

joined the Centre as a Visiting Research Fellow in Michaelmas Term. Dr Balala holds a DPhil in Law and MSt in Legal Research from Oxford University. She trained as a solicitor in the UK and has taught law, business, and economics at Oxford University. She has written and published extensively on women's rights in Islam.



Fellow in Islamic Finance

Dr Muhammad

Meki first joined the Centre in 2018 but has now extended his commitments on appointment as the Islamic Centre



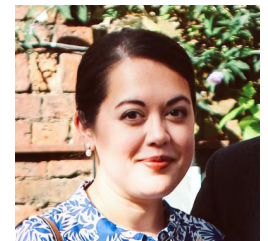
Lecturer in the Department of International Development at the University of Oxford.

Dr Meki's research interests are focused on the effect of equity-like microfinance contracts on the investment and growth of microenterprises in developing countries.

Research Fellow in Islamic Art

Dr Cailah Jack-

son holds a DPhil in Oriental Studies and MSt from Oxford University and an MA in the History of Art from



SOAS (London). She has been appointed as a Junior Research Fellow. Dr Jackson's research focuses on the Islamic arts of the book (calligraphy, illumination, illustration and bookbinding) of the later medieval period, particularly in Turkey, Iran and Iraq.

Arabic Lector

Ms Sarah Youssef,

the newly appointed Arabic Lector, will be teaching Modern Standard Arabic at beginners and advance level.



These courses are open to both University students and the public Ms Youssef holds a Masters in Teaching Arabic from the American University in Cairo (AUC) and was previously the AUC's Program Manager in Languages.

Impact investing as an Extension to the Islamic Economy

The 10th Roundtable on Islamic Finance was held at Ditchley Park in March as part of the Centre's longstanding partnership with the Securities Commission of Malaysia. The Roundtable was preceded by a reception and dinner held at the Institute of Directors in London. Both events were attended by HRH Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah, Sultan of the State of Perak, Trustee of the Centre and Royal Patron for Malaysia's Finance Initiative. The recently appointed Chairman of the Securities Commission Malaysia Datuk Syed Zaid Albar, was also in attendance.

The theme for this year's Roundtable was 'Impact Investing as an Extension to the Islamic Economy', with three key sessions



Participants at the 10th SC—OCIS Roundtable

on Accelerating Growth of Social Impact Investing, Taking Philanthropy to the Next Level: Venture Philanthropy, and Harnessing the Success Factors for Social Impact Bonds.

International Collaboration New Visiting Fellows at the Centre



Fellows and Visiting Fellows in MT2019

The Centre's Visiting Fellowships programme continues to thrive. A total of 23 visiting scholars from ten countries were in residence at the Centre during the academic year 2018—19. These included two SC—OCIS Visiting Fellows in Islamic Finance (in partnership with the Securities Commission of Malaysia). Research topics ranged from Islamic finance, through Islamic law, linguistics, interreligious dialogue, to aspects of the social sciences as applied to the Muslim world.

During the 2019—20 academic year some 27 visiting scholars will be in residence at the Centre. They come from the following

countries: Afghanistan, Canada, China, Egypt, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Morocco, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Syria, Turkey, USA and Uzbekistan.

The Chevening Fellowships are expected to grow from four in 2019 to five in 2020, with agreement reached to add a Russian Chevening Fellowship.

The Visiting Fellowship programme brings scholars from different academic and cultural traditions together to benefit from all the opportunities Oxford offers for study, research and dialogue.



Chevening Fellows at the Centre (left to right): Dr Hiam Elgousi, Ms Nigora Khakimova, Ms Dena Ramadan and Ms Umut Kavlak

Michaelmas Term 2019 Seminars

The following seminars were organized during Michaelmas Term 2019:

Professor Yasin Dutton
(Oxford),
'Thoughts on the transmission of Qur'an and Sunna'

Professor Alan Jones
(Oxford),
'The linguistic background to the Qur'an'

Dr Till Mostowlansky
(Graduate Institute Geneva),
'Muslim humanitarians and total social facts in High Asia'

Dr Cailah Jackson
(Oxford),
'The art of calligraphy and illumination in Konya, 1270s–1330s'

Tan Sri Azman Mokhtar
(Formerly CEO Khazanah Nasional),
'Reclaiming the financial commons: a practitioner's developmental perspective'

Dr Sophia Vasalou
(University of Birmingham),
'The place of the beautiful in al-Ghazali's ethics'

Dr Stephanie Wynne-Jones
(University of York),
'Travel, religion and trade: exploring the cosmopolitan world of the medieval Indian Ocean through daily life in an East African town'

The Centre's second annual Library Lecture was given by Ms Susan Strong (Senior Curator in the Asian Department at the Victoria and Albert Museum) on the topic 'Picturing the court: Mughal artists and material culture in the 17th century'. The lecture focused on objects ranging from jewelry and precious fabrics to oil paintings and Venetian glassware, and their representation in Mughal miniatures held in the V&A and other institutions. Attended by over fifty students and members of the library and local community in Oxford. The lecture was followed by refreshments and a networking opportunity.

Garden Party Lord Patten at the Centre

The Centre was delighted to welcome the Chancellor of the University of Oxford, Lord Patten of Barnes, as the guest of honour at its first Summer Garden Party in The Prince of Wales Garden. More than two hundred guests attended the event.

This was an opportunity to express appreciation to those who had supported the Centre's work over the years in academic, professional and civic capacities but also to offer guests who were new to the Centre an opportunity to see its academic facilities, such as the library, and talk to Centre colleagues.

Guests included Heads of House and senior University office holders, as well as academic colleagues across the University's faculties and departments. The Centre also welcomed the Vice Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire, City and County Councillors and teachers from local schools.



The Chancellor with the Director at the Garden Party

In his speech, the Chancellor commented that the Centre's building constituted a unique contribution to the diverse and high quality architecture of Oxford and looked forward to a continuing contribution by the Centre to Oxford's academic life.

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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