



HRH Prince Turki Al-Faisal

The Global Order Today: A Muslim Perspective



HRH Prince Turki Al-Faisal

The Centre welcomed HRH Prince Turki Al-Faisal, Chairman of the Board of Trustees and Director of the King Faisal Centre for Research and Islamic Studies, to deliver a lecture as part of the series marking the Centre's 40th anniversary.

The lecture was chaired by Robert Hannigan, Warden of Wadham College and Centre Trustee.

The lecture drew on a long and distinguished career in diplomacy and statesmanship. Prince Turki began by recalling the widely acclaimed lecture delivered in 1993 by HM King Charles III (when HRH The Prince

of Wales), which addressed 'Islam and the West'. Prince Turki observed that its call for the two worlds to live and work together in an increasingly interdependent age resonates as strongly today as when it was first delivered. Surveying the evolution of the international system from the post-war peace to the present, he reflected on the strains facing multilateral institutions and the erosion of confidence in them, arguing that a renewed order must be fair, inclusive, and reflective of contemporary realities. The lecture concluded with an affirmation of the enduring need for dialogue and mutual understanding among nations and civilizations. Prince Turki reiterated that for true renewal to be possible and equitable, everyone must be heard and multiple perspectives considered.

Within this framework, Muslim perspectives were highlighted as essential to any serious discussion of humanity's future and a peaceful, prosperous global order.

Lord Hague of Richmond

The Future of Multilateralism

The Rt Hon Lord Hague of Richmond, Chancellor of the University of Oxford, delivered a lecture on 'The Future of Multilateralism: Keeping International Co-operation Alive in the New Age of Unilateralism'. Lord Hague outlined the key geopolitical disruptions that have shaped the post-war era, against the backdrop of unprecedented advances in AI and biotech. The lecture reflected on the spirit of frenzied competition and the resulting breakdowns in global co-operation, outlining the challenges presented to nations in a fast-evolving world.

Lord Hague proposed a number of means by which international co-operation may be kept alive in the face of increasing global pressures. A key imperative is the reinforcement of existing international institutions through their reinvention, which can be made possible through institutional reform. The building of multilateral agreements and shared norms about emerging global threats was identified as another key area, particularly in

relation to space debris, military activities in space, and the rapid growth of AI.

Lord Hague likewise proposed that the establishment of new networks of 'plurilateral' co-operation amongst smaller groups of likeminded countries

is needed to facilitate multilateralism. The final key recommendation was that sovereign power must be cultivated if countries hope to keep multilateralism alive, whether through hard power or tech power. The lecture thus offered a thought-provoking assessment of the essential role that multilateralism can play in relation to increasingly pressing global challenges.



The Rt Hon Lord Hague of Richmond

Hilary Term Seminars

The following lectures and seminars were held at the Centre at 5pm.

Dr Chris Bahl (Durham University)

Mobile Manuscripts: Arabic Learning across the Early Modern Western Indian Ocean

Professor Tariq Modood (University of Bristol)
Islamophobia, Anti-Semitism, and the Struggle for Recognition

Professor James McDougall (University of Oxford)
Worlds of Islam: A Global History

Professor Michael Sandel (Harvard University)
Moral Responsibility of the Wealthy

Professor Sir Nasser D. Khalili (University of Oxford)
Hajj and the Art of Pilgrimage

Dr Tugba Bozcaga (King's College London)
Imams and Patrons: Service Provision by Islamic Non-State Actors

Professor Jocelyne Cesari (University of Birmingham)
From Divine Sovereignty to National Legitimacy: Transformations in the Theology of Political Islam

Dr Moin Nizami (Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies)
Transnational Ties of Faith: Imdadullah's Letters and Writings from the Hijaz during the Late 19th Century

Professor Sheilagh Ogilvie (University of Oxford)
Leviathan's Health: State Capacity and Epidemics from the Black Death to Covid

Professor Michael Sandel

Moral Responsibility of the Wealthy



Professor Michael Sandel

A lecture on 'The Moral Responsibility of the Wealthy' was delivered by Professor Michael Sandel (Harvard University) and moderated by Sir Paul Collier, the Centre's Anniversary Fellow. Drawing on his extensive previous work in political philosophy, Professor Sandel argued that the modern meritocratic ideal—

that everyone deserves what they achieve—has fostered selfish arrogance among the successful while degrading those who fall short, thereby creating a toxic ideology. Professor Sandel traced the origins of modern meritocracy, from the notion of good fortune as a sign of God's favour in early Christian theology to the secularization of the Protestant work ethic. The lecture emphasized that public discourse should move away from modern meritocracy and instead focus on cultivating civic responsibility and social solidarity.

Towards a More Equitable Future

Water Justice in Muslim Societies

The Centre facilitated a two-day roundtable on the topic of water justice in Muslim societies, organized by Centre Fellow Professor Adeel Malik and former Visiting Fellow Dr Abubakr Muhammad (LUMS). The event was led by Professor James Wescoat (MIT), and brought together an international group of participants working in a range of subjects, including economics, human development, environmental studies, and law.

The workshop addressed the historical

evolution of river basins from early Islamic periods to the present day. Participants also considered water justice from the perspective of political ecology, at the intersection of water inequality, regional economies, and contemporary climate challenges.



Professor James Wescoat

OCIS-TORCH Seminar

Historiography of the Haramayn



Dr Harry Munt

The inaugural OCIS-TORCH seminar was delivered by Dr Harry Munt (University of York). Dr Munt addressed a range of primary material and themes that form the focus of his recent monograph titled *Universalism and Regionalism in the Early Islamic World*,

published by Cambridge University Press. The lecture focused on historiography and early written histories of Makka, Madina, and Jerusalem. Different forms of historiography were discussed, with particular attention to topographical histories of the three cities. Dr Munt situated a variety of Arabic and Persian topographical works written between the seventh and eleventh centuries in the wider context of critical perspectives on local and universal histories, scholarly communities, and the social value of knowledge.

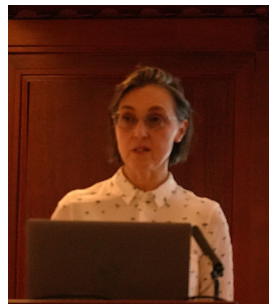
Library Lecture

The Royal Library's Islamic Treasures

Dr Stella Panayotova, Royal Librarian, presented on the Royal Collection's Islamic holdings in a richly illustrated lecture chaired by Professor Robert Hillenbrand, the Centre's Anniversary Fellow.

Dr Panayotova reflected on the unique traditions of Islamic manuscript illumination, offering a close look at a range of spectacular manuscripts, including the *Khamsah* of Nava'i (1492), the *Shahnama* (1648), the *Padshahnama* (1656-7), Fath 'Ali Shah's *Divan* (1802-3), and an 18th-century Carnatic Qur'an.

The lecture explicated how many of these objects reached Windsor as diplomatic gifts sent by rulers from India, Persia, and Afghanistan.

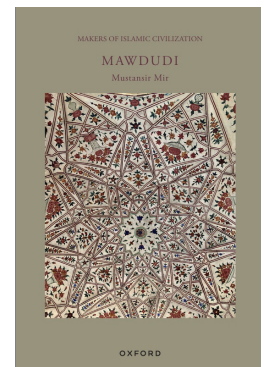


Dr Stella Panayotova

Dr Panayotova expressed her hopes that digitization would facilitate more scholarly work on these extraordinary manuscripts.

Makers of Islamic Civilization

The next title to be published in the Makers of Islamic Civilization series (Oxford University Press, Delhi) will be Professor Mustansir Mir's *Mawdudi*. The book offers an accessible biographical account of Abu al-A'la Mawdudi, a scholar active in India and later Pakistan.



King Faisal Lecture

Umayyad Mosaics in the Dome of the Rock



Dr Mohammed Hashim Ghosheh

This year's King Faisal Lecture was delivered by Dr Mohammed Hashim Ghosheh and chaired by Professor Robert Hillenbrand, the Centre's Anniversary Fellow.

The lecture offered a detailed overview of the extraordinary mosaics of the Dome of the

Rock in Jerusalem, the oldest surviving example of Islamic architecture.

The lecture recounted the painstaking project to comprehensively document the architectural features of the Al-Aqsa mosque compound. Dr Ghosheh's meticulous photography of the dome, the arches, and wall decorations reveals extensive aesthetic elements that were previously invisible or obscured, and therefore overlooked in previous scholarship. This work makes possible a more complete understanding of the mosaic designs and their significance.

Visiting Fellows

The Centre welcomed the following Visiting Fellows in Hilary Term:

Professor Sakariyau Alabi Aliyu, MA (University of Ilorin), PhD (Universiteit Leiden)

Visiting Fellow

Professor Hassan Khalilieh, BA (University of Haifa), MA, PhD (Princeton University)

Visiting Fellow

Mr Mohammad Fauzi b. Hairani

Sarawak Academic Visitor

Honorary Fellowship

The Centre's Director, Dr Farhan Nizami, has been elected to an Honorary Fellowship of Wadham College, Oxford. Dr Nizami was a graduate student at the College.

Craftsmanship and Artisanal Legacy

History of Ottoman Material Culture

The Centre continues to expand its research in art history and material culture of the Islamic world. Experts on Ottoman architecture from the UK and Türkiye were in conversation at the Centre, addressing the role of itinerant workshops in the post-Seljuk to early Ottoman period.

Chaired by Dr Veronika Poier, the Centre's Fellow in the History of Islamic Art and Material Culture, the symposium included a keynote by Dr Richard Piran McClary (University of York). The programme addressed new research about transregional

craftsmanship in relation to questions of patronage, mobility, artisanal practices, and different forms of cultural and architectural inheritance.

The Centre's work in the history of art also engages actively with Central Asia, with a focus on the Timurids and their material legacies across manuscript production, architecture, and craftsmanship. An exhibition showcasing such objects is currently being planned in collaboration with Uzbekistan's Art and Culture Development Foundation.

The Ultimate Journey

An Exhibition on the Three Holy Mosques

The Centre's gallery hosted an exhibition of contemporary artworks depicting the three holy sites of Islam: the Grand Mosque in Makkah, the Prophet's Mosque in Madinah, and the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem.

The 36 works on display were created by a diverse group of international artists including Dia Aziz Dia, Reem Nazir, Peter Gould, Raeda Ashour, and Bill West, among others. The artworks included paintings, prints, mixed media, calligraphy, and ceramic tiles, showcasing a broad variety of traditional and modern styles, including abstract art.

The diverse artworks on display showcased how different creative approaches can give shape to the historical, cultural, and spiritual importance of the Three Holy Mosques.

The Ultimate Journey exhibition was presented for the first time in the United Kingdom. It comes from the collections of Dar Layan Culture, a not-for-profit art and cultural concept creator founded in 2007 to tell

the story and preserve the richness of Saudi heritage, Islamic arts, and the broader Arab culture.

The exhibition's inauguration ceremony was presided over by HRH Prince Turki Al-Faisal



(From left) HH Prince Faissal bin Abdullah, HRH Prince Turki Al-Faisal, and the Director

(Chairman of the Centre's Board of Trustees) and HH Prince Faissal bin Abdullah (Chairman of Dar Layan's Board of Trustees).

In addition to remarks by the honoured guests, the ceremony featured notable presentations by Mr Yusuf Islam, Professor Robert Hillenbrand (King Faisal Laureate) and Dr Saad Al-Rashid (King Saud University).

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