

The Alwaleed Centre for the Study of Islam in the Contemporary World

Annual Report 2018 - 2019



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

HISTORY and OBJECTIVES

*The Edinburgh Alwaleed Centre was founded in 2009 thanks to a generous endowment from Alwaleed Philanthropies:
www.alwaleedphilanthropies.org*

The Edinburgh Alwaleed Centre is one of six academic centres based at leading universities in the UK (the universities of Edinburgh and Cambridge), the United States (the universities of Harvard and Georgetown) and the Middle East (the American universities of Beirut and Cairo).

Based in the School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures and linked to the Department of Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies, the Edinburgh Alwaleed Centre is interdisciplinary, connecting different parts of the University through a focus on Islam and the contemporary Islamic World.

*For more information visit:
www.alwaleed.ed.ac.uk*

THE CENTRE'S RESEARCH and OUTREACH WORK is GUIDED by SIX KEY OBJECTIVES:

- To establish international partnerships with institutions across the Muslim and non-Muslim worlds to foster collaborative research.
- To help produce the next generation of academics and actors in the public and private sectors.
- To advance mutual understanding and cross-cultural dialogue between Islam and the West.
- To improve knowledge of contemporary Islam among students, policy makers and the general public.
- To engage productively with the Muslim diaspora in the UK.
- To spearhead UK expertise on Islam in the contemporary world.

Director's welcome

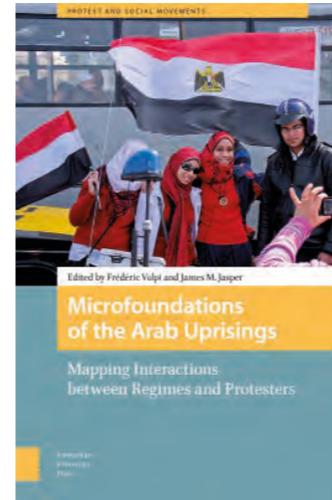


Professor Frédéric Volpi :
Director of the Alwaleed Centre

- Professor Frédéric Volpi joined the Alwaleed Centre as its new Director in December 2018. Alongside his role as Director, he also holds a Chair in the Politics of the Muslim World in Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies.
- Frédéric earned his PhD from the University of Cambridge in 2000 and, before coming to Edinburgh, was based in the School of International Relations at the University of St Andrews. He has also held teaching and research positions at Sussex University, Bristol University, and Sciences Po. Paris.
- Frédéric's research is located at the interface between Islamic studies and political science. His work engages with contemporary issues of democratization and Islamism in the Muslim world, with a particular focus on North Africa. He is particularly interested in the process of mutual construction of religiosity and of politics through the interactions between Islamist actors and between Islamist and non-Islamist actors in changing socio-historical circumstances. He is currently focusing on the construction of new identities via social mobilization in times of upheaval.

The past year has been one of significant change at the Edinburgh Alwaleed Centre. As incoming Director, I am most appreciative of the works that my predecessors have done to build up the strengths of the Centre, Prof. Hugh Goddard for a decade of unrelenting efforts, and Prof. Jaakko Hämeen-Anttila for taking charge of the Centre in 2018. As 2019 initiates a new cycle in the life of the Centre, it is worth reflecting on the successes of this past year and outlining the first initiatives of this new and exciting phase in the Centre's life.

The outreach programme of the Centre is as always buoyant and indefatigably led by our General Manager, Tom Lea, a stalwart of consistency and professionalism in our team. He was a key actor behind our successful school outreach programme



and summerschool collaboration with Alwaleed Philanthropies and the King Abdulaziz Centre for National Dialogue. This year, our new Outreach and Projects Coordinator, Nadin Atka, has brought renewed energy and enthusiasm to the Centre's activities. In particular, Nadin is piloting the Centre's new initiative 'Syrian Futures', designed to bring together university and community efforts to address the long-term futures of refugees in Scotland

and beyond. The educational outreach of the Centre is also taking a new dimension this year thanks to the completion and launch of our Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on the Sharia and Islamic Law designed by Alwaleed Fellow David Warren. With students from over 140 countries already signed-up, this promises to be a major global contribution.

These activities underpin the new research agenda of the Centre and its internationalization. Giulia Liberatore, the Alwaleed Lecturer on Muslims in Europe, not only organized a very successful conference on female religious authority in Europe and North America but also launched a new university

course on Muslims in Europe. This course, in addition to the Director's new course on globalized Muslim politics, are stepping stones to the launch of a new Masters programme on globalized Muslim world studies scheduled for 2021 and targeting postgraduate students from the entire Muslim world. In addition, the Centre also inaugurated a new collaboration with the University of Edinburgh's Institute for the Advanced Study of the Humanities to support visiting senior research fellows and junior postgraduate fellows to come to our institutions to study various aspects of contemporary Islam and Muslim societies in collaboration with our team

The Centre's research profile is also gaining in visibility due to a number of new initiatives. We started our distinguished speakers' series on the Globalized Muslim world this year. The director also reached an agreement with Edinburgh University Press to launch a new book series entitled Edinburgh Studies in the Globalized Muslim World. Key speakers to the Alwaleed lecture series will have a short book version of their talk published by the Press. This year, three new postdoctoral fellows will boost the research and outreach activities of the Centre: our Islamic Manuscripts Fellow, our Mediterranean Islam fellow and our Muslims in Asia fellow. They will all contribute to research projects with a clear international outreach dimension. The appointment of a deputy director for the Centre, Dr Elvire Corboz, brings us additional expertise and leadership in the field of contemporary Shi'ism, strengthening the capacity and reach of our team.

A Growing Team

Over the past year, the Alwaleed Centre has welcomed a number of new colleagues to its dynamic research and outreach teams.

A full list of the Alwaleed Centre's staff, Fellows and PhD students can be found on the back cover of this report and further information can also be found at: www.alwaleed.ed.ac.uk.

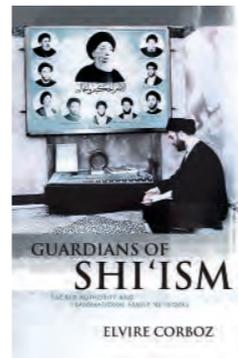


Dr Elvire Corboz:
Deputy Director of the Alwaleed Centre

Elvire Corboz is Lecturer in Contemporary Islam and the Middle East at the Department of Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies, University of Edinburgh, and joined the Alwaleed Centre as Deputy Director in May 2019.

Elvire earned her DPhil in Oriental Studies from the University of Oxford and has held research and teaching positions at Princeton University, Rutgers University, and Aarhus University. Her area of research is contemporary Shi'ism, with a particular interest in clerical authority, Shi'i Islamist politics in Iraq, and Shi'i communities in London.

Through her role with the Alwaleed Centre, Elvire intends to develop a research cluster on Sunni-Shi'i relations in the United Kingdom and Europe. This geographical area remains largely unexplored in the scholarship on Sunni-Shi'i dynamics, while the research cluster could later be expanded to other Muslim-minority contexts. The aim is also to capture the multifaceted nature of Sunni-Shi'i relations – the more conflictual aspects but also those characterised by dialogue, co-operation or indifference. Elvire's own research interests lie in the study of intra-Muslim collaborative initiatives in the UK, emanating from both the elite and grassroots levels. In the coming year, the first steps toward the development of this new research cluster at the Alwaleed Centre will include a workshop and plans for a journal special issue.



Nadin Akta joined the Alwaleed Centre team in January 2019 bringing with her a wealth of experience in the fields of intercultural dialogue.

Nadin holds a Masters in Intercultural Business Communication and TESOL from Edinburgh Napier University and, since arriving in Scotland from Syria in 2008, has worked for a number of different Scottish local authorities and third sector organisations, helping to support ethnic minority communities and encourage dialogue and communication across cultures and religions.

When Scotland began to welcome significant numbers of Syrian refugees in 2015, Nadin began working closely with organisations across Scotland to help encourage a better understanding of Syrian culture and religion, supporting Syrian families as they transitioned into their new lives and communities. Nadin is the cofounder of an award-winning tutoring scheme for Syrian teenagers at the University of Edinburgh which matches Arabic-speaking students from across the University with Syrian school pupils to help them on their educational journey, raise their confidence and meet new people.

In her role as Outreach and Projects Coordinator at the Alwaleed Centre, Nadin works closely with key partners in local and national government, education and the wider public sector to help improve public understanding of Islam and challenge stereotypes and misconceptions about Islam and Muslims. She is leading the Centre's major new project 'Syrian Futures' which aims to support Scottish Syrians into further and higher education as well as employment.



Ms Nadin Akta: Alwaleed Centre
Outreach and Projects Coordinator.

Ewan Stein works on the intersection between international relations and, particularly Islamist, social movements in the Middle East. He is interested in the ways in which Islamic discourses have shifted over time as part of state hegemonic projects, how social movements have influenced and challenged such discourses, and how ideological and social dynamics within states shape relations among them.

In his role as Alwaleed Senior Research Fellow, Ewan will lead a research cluster under the theme 'Islamic Discourses and the State in the Middle East' bringing together scholars working on Islam's role in public life within a changing Middle Eastern context. He will examine a number of questions around themes including:

- Islam and citizenship: How have contemporary Islamic thinkers and opinion shapers (re)conceptualised the nature of citizenship and belonging? How has Islam shaped approaches to civic engagement and responsibility in Middle Eastern societies?
- Islamic activism: How have Islamic social movements adapted to the changing political environment in the Middle East? In what ways have states shaped changing modalities of activism and the discourses associated with them?
- Utopias and dystopias: How have Muslim writers, thinkers and artists articulated imagined the future? How have these visions and aspirations changed over time?



Dr Ewan Stein:
Alwaleed Senior Research Fellow

Jona Fras has studied Social Anthropology (MA, Edinburgh, 2011) and Arab World Studies (MSc, Edinburgh, 2013), and holds a PhD in Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies from the University of Edinburgh, on the topic of language in Jordanian radio. He has been teaching at Edinburgh's Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies department since 2013, primarily Arabic in both postgraduate and undergraduate programmes, but also other subjects such as Modern Middle Eastern History and the Arab-Israeli Conflict. In his new capacity as the Alwaleed bin Talal Teaching Fellow in Arabic he will be involved with undergraduate teaching of Arabic at IMES, but will also contribute to the Alwaleed Centre's research and outreach activities. He is particularly interested in the pedagogical aspects of teaching Arabic – including developing novel language pedagogy techniques – as well as the teaching and learning of Arabic as a global language, a theme with strong links to the position of Islam in the contemporary world.

Beyond his day-to-day teaching duties, Jona's new position as a Centre fellow will also enable closer involvement with larger-scale outreach and research activity. He is currently developing a basic conversational training course on Arabic language and culture for local authorities in Scotland. In the medium term, he is looking to further strengthen the Centre's "Arabic" research theme by organising events such as conferences and workshops on Arabic language teaching with a global scope, and short courses in language pedagogy and teacher training.



Dr Jona Fras: Alwaleed bin Talal Teaching Fellow in Arabic

Farah Taleb received her MA in both art history and plastic art from the Lebanese University. Her previous research focused on gender studies in art and the influence of the second wave of feminism on both art scenes and art history during the 1960's and the 1970's.



Ms Farah Taleb:
Alwaleed Centre PhD Scholar
(Contemporary Islamic Art)

Her PhD thesis with the Alwaleed Centre investigates the place of contemporary women artists from the Arab world, Iran and Turkey in local, regional and global art scenes. It will focus on analysing the different aspects of the work by the younger generation of women artists and its relation to both Global art and traditional Islamic art.

In addition, the study will discuss the role of institutions and curators in these conversations by exploring the different curatorial approaches used by International institutions to represent the artists. Employing critical, postcolonial and feminist approaches to art history, the study aims to detect the influence of stereotypes and misconceptions on both the artists and the audiences.

Michael Rozek is a former upper school teacher and department head at a private college prep school in Michigan. He has been awarded the prestigious Alwaleed Centre scholarship and started his Ph.D at the University of Edinburgh in September 2018, working under the supervision of both Professor Mona Siddiqui (School of Divinity) and Professor Jaakko Hämeen-Anttila (Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies).



Mr Michael J. Rozek:
Alwaleed PhD Scholar
(Christian-Muslim Relations)

the supervision of both Professor Mona Siddiqui (School of Divinity) and Professor Jaakko Hämeen-Anttila (Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies).

Michael's project examines two intellectual-religious developments that co-occurred from the Arab Conquests through the Abbasid Caliphate: the emergence and develop-

ment of Christian apologetics and Islamic law. In that parallel, the project explores the primary research question: Why did Muslim jurists target Christian apologists' religious dialogue and proselytization about Christian and Muslim theological beliefs? The earliest extant Muslim juristic writings from the Arab Conquests through the Umayyad Caliphate did not have restrictions of religious dialogue. Muslim jurists in the Abbasid period, however, beginning with Imām al-Shāfi'ī, specifically criticized and limited Christians from what could be considered the main contents and activities of Christian apologetics.

Highlights 2018-2019

2018-19 was an extremely productive year for the Alwaleed Centre, with a variety of exciting projects and events delivered locally, nationally and internationally. Here we provide a few highlights offering a sense of the Centre's range and scope. A full list of events, conferences and seminars can be found on pages 17 - 19 of this report.

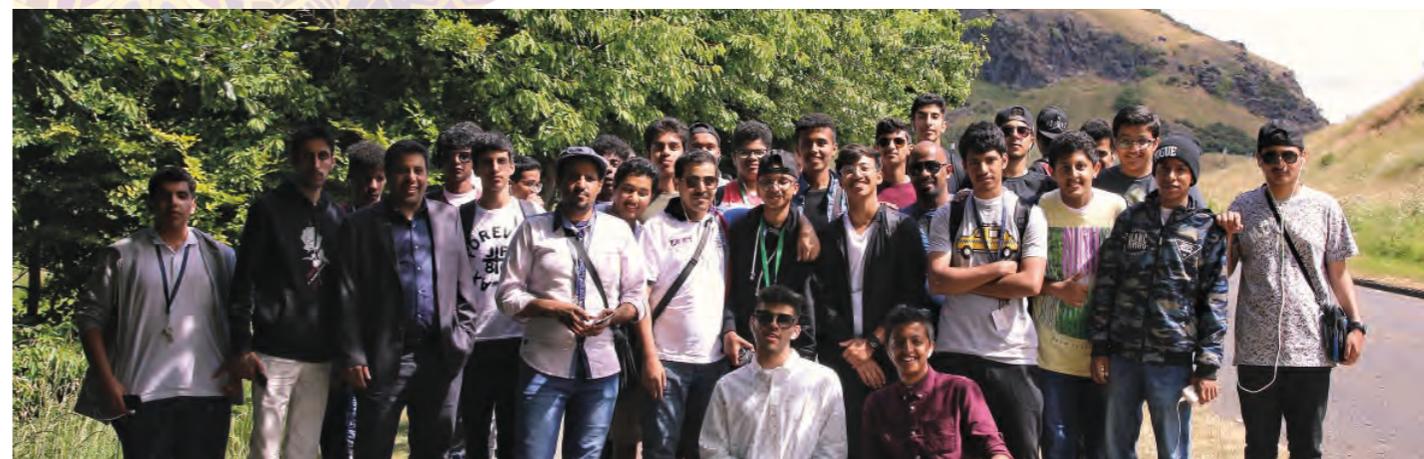


Ambassadors of Peaceful Dialogue

Following the success of the inaugural programme in 2017, the Alwaleed Centre hosted a second edition of its hugely successful Ambassadors of Peaceful Dialogue Summer School programme in partnership with Alwaleed Philanthropies and the King Abdul Aziz Centre for National Dialogue, Riyadh.

The Summer School welcomed 100 young Saudi students and chaperones to Edinburgh for three weeks of intensive English classes, cultural experiences and inter-cultural dialogue. The students visited local high schools, debated with local young people, hosted an 'Intercultural Cup' 5-a-side football tournament and welcomed locals to a special event celebrating Saudi/Arabic food and culture.

We are indebted to Alwaleed Philanthropies for making this wonderful project possible for the second year in a row and look forward to developing the project in future years.



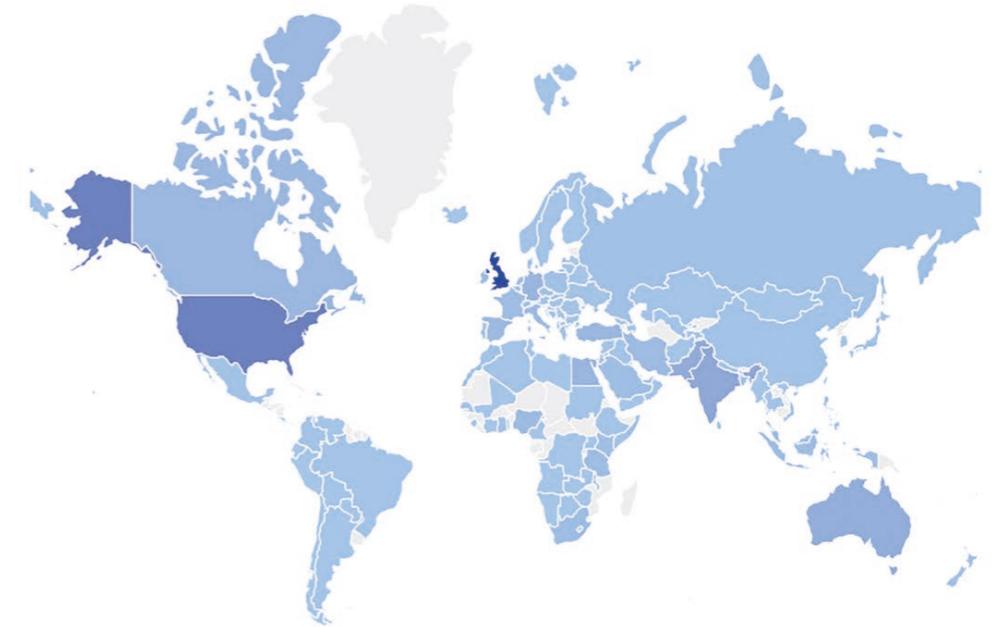
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والفقه

In May 2019, the Alwaleed Centre launched a ground-breaking Massive Open Online Course entitled 'The Sharia and Islamic Law: An Introduction'. Designed by Alwaleed Research Fellow, Dr David Warren, and including contributions from 15 renowned academics based at the University of Edinburgh and other leading universities across Europe and North America, this unique course has so far attracted almost 4000 students from over 140 countries worldwide.



For more information about the course visit: www.alwaleed.ed.ac.uk

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS:
The Sharia and Islamic Law: An Introduction



The five-week course explores some of the diverse roles that the Sharia and Islamic law have played in Muslim life, both historically and today, encouraging students to think critically about the nature of religious law and its many manifestations. The course is comprised of short videos and documentaries, interviews with leading academics, short readings from the academic literature and peer-to-peer discussion and learning exercises.

The course will run for three years and we look forward to welcoming many thousands more students in the years to come.

3900 students have signed up from 141 countries



Stimulating International Conversations

The Alwaleed Centre delivered four major international conferences and symposia in 2018/19 collaborating with a number of key international academic and non-academic partners.

Muslim Female Leadership and Authority in Europe and North America

This timely conference brought together academics, community and religious leaders to discuss the growing role of female Muslim leaders across the UK, continental Europe and the USA.



Professor Amina Wadud

We were honoured to welcome Professor Amina Wadud who delivered a memorable lecture exploring the democratization of authority in Islam, and Dr Shuruq Naguib (Lancaster University) who provided a stimulating overview of gender and the Qur'an. The conference was organised by Alwaleed Centre Leverhulme Early Career Fellow Dr Giulia Liberatore, Alwaleed Postdoctoral Fellow Dr Khadijah Elshayyal and Alwaleed Visiting PhD Scholar Tazeen Ali.

Contesting in the Name of Religion in "Secularised" Societies: Between Doctrine and Militancy

Organised in Venice in partnership with Fondazione Cini, and with the support of KU Leuven, GSRL EPHE-CNRS, Université de Sherbrooke, Université de Montréal this two-day symposium explored the phenomenon of faith-inspired conscientious objection and the questions it raises in relation to citizenship and democracy.



Annual Conference of the British Association for Islamic Studies

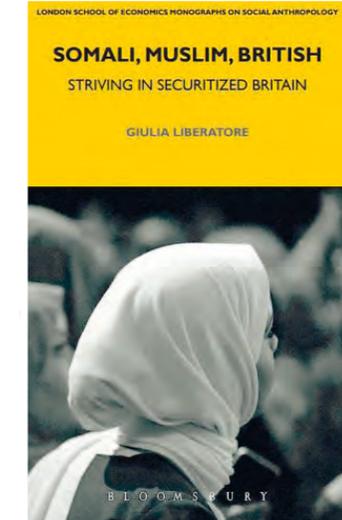
The Alwaleed Centre continued its essential work as the administrative hub of the British Association for Islamic Studies, playing a central role in the delivery of the 2019 Annual Conference at the University of Nottingham. More than 170 scholars from across the globe gathered for two days of interdisciplinary debate and discussion, with a special plenary from Cambridge Alwaleed Centre Director Professor Khaled Fahmy.

Reception, appropriation, and innovation: Byzantium between the Christian and Islamic worlds

As part of its commitment to encourage a better understanding of the relationship between the world of Islam and the West, the Alwaleed Centre partnered with the School of History, Classics and Archaeology and the Society for the Promotion of Byzantine Studies to deliver a memorable postgraduate conference bringing together doctoral students from across the world. More than 100 of the UK and Europe's most promising postgraduates came together for an engaging two days of exchange and debate.

Driving Forward the Study of Muslims in Europe

2019 saw the launch of a new honours and masters course organised by the Alwaleed Centre's Leverhulme Early Career Fellow Dr Giulia Liberatore offering a critical analysis of the history, politics and sociology of Europe's diverse Muslim communities.



At this tumultuous time in Europe's history, and with the Brexit process in full swing, this course offered a timely analysis of European identity politics and the challenges facing Europe's diverse Muslim communities. Attracting a large cohort of students from a number of University of Edinburgh departments, the course received excellent feedback and will be further developed in the 2019-2020 academic year.



Syrian Futures

2019 saw the launch of a major new outreach project led by the Alwaleed Centre's Outreach and Projects Coordinator, Nadin Akta, aimed at improving the educational and professional outcomes of Scotland's growing Syrian community.

Although local authorities in Scotland offer essential support to newly-arrived Syrian refugees in the early years of their new lives in Scotland, very little support is available to help them flourish in the long term. By bringing together the extraordinary expertise and resources of the University of Edinburgh and partnering with visionary Scottish charities and NGOs, 'Syrian Futures' hopes to provide



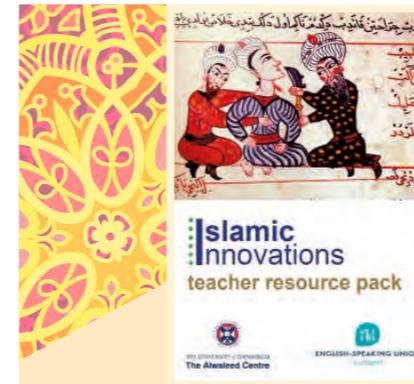
Syrian communities with opportunities in further and higher education, as well as the job market. The project is still in its early stages but is already bearing fruit, with special university open days planned for Syrian pupils, training programmes organised for organisations engaging with Syrian communities and a ground breaking internship programme launched in partnership with the charity 'Re-Start'.

More information on this and all other Alwaleed Centre projects can be found at: www.alwaleed.ed.ac.uk.

Leading Resources for High Schools in Scotland

Engaging with Scottish teachers and pupils has always been a key priority for the Alwaleed Centre, and the past year has seen the Centre make some major contributions to learning and teaching across the country.

Celebrating Islamic Civilisation



In partnership with the English Speaking Union Scotland, the Centre produced an engaging set of debating resources focused on the many contributions of the Islamic world to the arts and sciences. The resources are available to download from the Alwaleed Centre website and were

launched in November 2018 via a debating competition involving more than 40 pupils from five Scottish schools. The competition was hosted in the University of Edinburgh's historic "Anatomy Lecture Theatre" and judged by Alwaleed Centre Interim Director, Professor Jaakko Hameen-Anttila.

Understanding Lived Islam in Scotland

This year, the Alwaleed Centre was delighted to partner with AMINA Muslim Women's Resource Centre to help produce a handbook for teachers in Scotland exploring the lived experience of Scotland's Muslim communities.

School Visits

Alongside these important resources, the Alwaleed Centre continued its direct engagement with Scottish High School pupils by welcoming school groups to the University of Edinburgh as well as visiting schools across the country. This year, the centre engaged directly with more than 20 schools



offering sessions ranging from understanding the Qur'an and hadiths, to Arabic language learning and contemporary Muslim politics. Many of the Centre school engagements were part of the University of Edinburgh's Widening Participation programme which brings pupils from disadvantaged areas of Scotland into the university environment.

If you feel your pupils could benefit from a visit to or from the Alwaleed Centre, visit our website where you will find more information on how to arrange a visit: www.alwaleed.ed.ac.uk.

Looking Ahead



An Exciting New International Research Project

In October 2019 Giulia Liberatore (Alwaleed Leverhulme Early Career Fellow), along with Ammara Maqsood (University College London) and Leslie Fesenmyer (University of Birmingham), will begin working on a new European Research Council funded project on 'Multi-religious encounters in Urban Settings'. The project will theorise inter-religious interactions in non-secular contexts through comparative ethnographic work in Pakistan (Karachi), Kenya (Nairobi) and Italy (Palermo).

Giulia will be working on everyday encounters among religious actors in Palermo, Sicily. In particular, she will be exploring the forms of engagement with Muslim migrants organised and implemented by Christian institutions in Palermo, the models of co-habitation that underlie these efforts, and the role of memories of Sicily's past encounters with Muslims in contemporary configurations of cohabitation.

Bringing the Islamic Past to Life

As part of its efforts to encourage a better understanding of Islamic history and culture, the Alwaleed Centre will be welcoming a new Manuscript Fellow in September 2019 to catalogue the University of Edinburgh's unique collection of Islamic manuscripts and build creative partnerships with colleagues in the Alwaleed academic Network and museums across Europe.



Globalized Islam

Over the coming years, the Alwaleed Centre will build its research teaching agenda around the theme of "Globalized Islam". We plan to launch an MSc programme in the 2021-22 academic year alongside a prestigious book series published by Edinburgh University Press entitled Edinburgh Studies of the Globalised Muslim World. As part of this agenda, we plan to build strong research link with institutions in both South and South East Asia and other parts of the Muslim world beyond the Middle East.

Alwaleed Centre Events, Seminars and Conferences 2018-2019



You can keep up-to-speed with all the latest news and events at the Alwaleed Centre by visiting our website: www.alwaleed.ed.ac.uk or by connecting with us on social media: [@alwaleed_centre](https://twitter.com/alwaleed_centre) and www.facebook.com/alwaleededinburgh

Kindred Citizens:

Food and the Making of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Wednesday 16th May 2018

A special public lecture by Dr Rose Wellman, Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of Michigan-Dearborn and visiting scholar at the Alwaleed Centre.

Death by Poetry

Tuesday 19th June 2018

Death caused by sung poetry is not an unknown phenomenon in the hagiographies of South Asian Sufis. In this presentation, Dr Miko explored the strategies the performers of qawwali Sufi music employ in order to trigger such reactions.

Intercultural Cup: 5-a-side Football Tournament

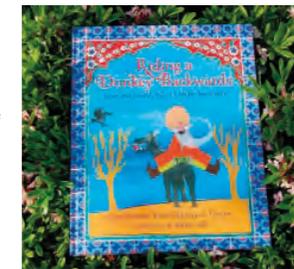
Tuesday 19th June 2018

A wonderful day of intercultural competition and relationship-building involving young Saudi Arabian students visiting Edinburgh as part of our Ambassadors of Peaceful Dialogue Summer School Programme.

A Celebration of Arabic Culture

Tuesday 3rd July 2018

A celebration of Arabic food, art and culture delivered by a delegation of 70 young students from Saudi Arabia who were visiting Edinburgh as part of the Ambassadors of Peaceful Dialogue Summer School Programme 2018.



Riding a Donkey Backwards with Eleanor Martin & Sean Taylor

Sunday 26th August 2018

Mulla Nasruddin is the wisest man and the biggest fool in his village! As part of the Edinburgh International Book Festival 2018, author Sean Taylor

and performer Eleanor Martin brought to life Riding a Donkey Backwards, a collection of 21 tales and riddles about this hilarious trickster known and loved across Muslim cultures.

Muslim Women's Religious Leadership and Authority in Europe and North America

Thursday 13th - Friday 14th September 2018

A ground-breaking interdisciplinary workshop facilitating dialogue and scholarly exchange on the topic of Islamic female scholarship and leadership in Europe and the USA. The Alwaleed Centre welcomed scholars and practitioners from a range of fields and disciplines to explore these topics in an open and supportive environment.

Towards a Democratization of Authority in Islam

Thursday 13th September 2018

The Alwaleed Centre was delighted to be welcome one of the world's most influential scholars of Islam and gender, Dr Amina Wadud to Edinburgh for a public lecture exploring gender and authority in Islam.



Rethinking Gender in the Study of the Qur'an and its Interpretation

Friday 14th September 2018

In this special public lecture, Dr Shuruq Naguib (Lancaster University) offered a critical review of gender-focused scholarly engagement with key Islamic texts and considered contemporary studies which examine female authority in these textual sources.

Celebrate Muslim Women's Writing

Saturday 29th September 2018

A lively afternoon of spoken word and performance by emerging Muslim women writers exploring the theme of relationships. With input from acclaimed Muslim women writers Safina Mazhar, Sara Shaarawi and Sufiya Ahmed. Delivered in partnership with Sheffield University Storying Relationships Project and Stella Quines Theatre Company.

Female Mourning in Islam: Historical Precedents and Contemporary Diasporic Perspectives

Monday 8th October 2018

A special seminar by Dr Alistair Hunter, British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow at the Alwaleed Centre. Part of the Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies Seminar Series 2018-19.

Breaking Barriers: Parents and Children in Scripture

Sunday 11th November 2018

Breaking Barriers brings together Jews, Christians and Muslims in Edinburgh to learn more about each other's beliefs, practices and

ideas through a process known as 'Scriptural Reasoning'.

Reflecting the 2018 Scottish Interfaith Week theme 'Connecting Generations', this special session explored the relationship between parents and children in Jewish, Christian and Muslim scripture.

Building Prophetic Communities: A New Generation of Female Islamic Scholars in Britain

Monday 19th November 2018

A special seminar by Dr Giulia Liberatore, Leverhulme Early Career Fellow at the Alwaleed Centre. Part of the Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies Seminar Series 2018-19.

Islamic Innovations School Debating Competition

Tuesday 27th November 2018

An afternoon of debate and discussion focused on the many contributions of Islamic Civilisation to science, art and culture. In this special debating competition, 40 pupils from High Schools across Scotland debated which Islamic Innovation has made the biggest impact on our lives. Open to the public and all are welcome. Delivered in partnership with the English Speaking Union Scotland and part of a broader project to engage young people with the richness of Islamic history and innovation.

Reception, appropriation, and innovation: Byzantium between the Christian and Islamic worlds

Friday 30th November - Saturday 1st December 2018

The Alwaleed Centre was delighted to work with the University of Edinburgh's School of History, Classics and Archaeology to deliver this fascinating postgraduate conference which attracted students from across the world.

Arabic Diglossia as Language Ideology: Implications for Teaching

Monday 28th January 2019

A special research seminar by Alwaleed Arabic Teaching Fellow Dr Jona Fras exploring the fascinating way in which Arabic speakers move from more formal to more colloquial Arabic and the implications of this for how we teach the language. Part of the Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies Spring Seminar Series 2018-2019.

Italian-Arabic Diwan: Origins, Love, Exile

Thursday 31st January 2019

In literature, the Arabic word 'diwan' denotes a collection of poems and songs, like the Italian word 'canzoniere'. Around the richly embroidered history of a medieval Mediterranean diwan, in a symposium with live music, we shared songs of love and exile from the Siculo-Arabic poets to Dante. A collaboration between Italian Studies, Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies, and the Baharat Collective, with the generous support of the Alwaleed Centre, University of Edinburgh, and the Italian Cultural Institute, Edinburgh.

Iran's Revolution 40 Years On: Politics and Culture in the Islamic Republic

Friday 8th February 2019

A special roundtable reflecting on the anniversary of the 1979 revolution in Iran, featuring: Farhad Khoroshkavar (Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Science Sociales, Paris), Nacim Pak-Shiraz (Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies, University of Edinburgh), Ali Ansari (Modern History, University of St Andrews), Louise Fawcett (Politics and International Relations, University of Oxford) and Jim Muir (BBC Journalist). Organised in partnership with the School of Social and Political Science and the Department of Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies.



Edinburgh Iranian Festival 2019

Friday 1st March - Friday 8th March 2019

The Alwaleed Centre is a longstanding supporter of the Edinburgh Iranian Festival which celebrated its 10th Anniversary in 2019. A rich programme of cultural events which attracted many thousands of people from across Scotland and beyond.



Astrolabes in al-Andalus: A Successful Symbiosis of Art and Science

Friday 8th March 2019

A special seminar by one of the world's leading experts on medieval Andalusian astrolabes, Dr. Azucena Hernández (Complutense University, Madrid) exploring the history, structure and uses of the astrolabe and the manufacture of astrolabes in al-Andalus. Organised in partnership with the Edinburgh College of Art.

The Future of Islamic Studies in the UK

Monday 25th March 2019

A seminar by Alwaleed Centre Honorary Professorial Fellow Professor Hugh Goddard, part of the Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies Spring Research Seminar Series.

Film Screening: The Judge

Tuesday 2nd April 2019

A special screening of Erica Cohn's multi award winning documentary *The Judge* which follows the journey of Khulud al-Faqih, the first female judge on a Sharia Court in Palestine. Followed by a panel discussion featuring Nacim Pak-Shiraz (IMES, University of Edinburgh), Yahya Barry (former Imam of Edinburgh Central Mosque and Alwaleed Centre PhD student), Alaa Murad (IMES, University of Edinburgh) and Omar Anchassi (Divinity, University of Edinburgh).

Contesting in the Name of Religion in "Secularised" Societies: Between Doctrine and Militancy

Thursday 4th - Saturday 6th April 2019

This symposium investigated the phenomenon of conscientious objection and the stakes they raise in terms of citizenship and democracy. Organised in partnership with Fondazione Cini/KU Leuven, GSRL EPHE-CNRS, Université de Sherbrooke, Université de Montréal. Hosted by the Giorgio Cini Foundation, Venice.

Annual Conference of the British Association for Islamic Studies

Monday 15 - Tuesday 16 April 2019

The Alwaleed Centre continued in important role as Administrative Hub for the British Association for Islamic Studies in 2018-19. This year's Annual Conference was hosted by the University of Nottingham and attracted more than 160 scholars from across the world. The conference also included a superb plenary by Professor Khaled Fahmy, Director of the Cambridge Alwaleed Centre.

How democratization and authoritarianism have become problematic to explain Arab politics

Professor Francesco Cavatorta

Wednesday 1st May 2019

Renowned political scientist Professor Francesco Cavatorta (Laval University) reflected on longer-term trends in the Arab world politics using recent survey data to investigate the high level of dissatisfaction of citizens in countries that have experienced radically different post-uprising trajectories.

Islamophobia and Normative Sociology:

Professor Tariq Modood

Tuesday 7th May 2019

A lecture marking the launch of Tariq Modood's new book, *Essays on Secularism and Multiculturalism*, Organised in partnership with the School of Social and Political Science. With responses from Khadijah Elshayyal (Alwaleed Centre/Divinity, University of Edinburgh), Giulia Liberatore (Alwaleed Centre/Sociology/IMES) and Michael Rosie (Sociology, University of Edinburgh). Chaired by Nasar Meer (Sociology, University of Edinburgh).

Heritage and interreligious coexistence in the city

Friday 17 May 2018

A research workshop delivered in partnership with the Institute for the Advance Study of the Humanities bringing together a number of scholars who have recently embarked on research projects within the field of interreligious coexistence in various parts of the world. The workshop provided a platform for the discussion of concepts, methods and vantage points by which everyday interreligious coexistence can be productively studied.

Publications 2018-2019

Corboz, Elvire. 'Islamisk enhedsdiskurs : Et studie af sunni-shiarelationer fra britiske shiamuslimers perspektiv'. *Tidsskrift for Islamforskning*, 13 (1) 2019.

Corboz, Elvire, 'Iraq's sources of emulation: Scholarly capital and competition in the Marja'iyya field'. *Middle East Critique*, forthcoming 2019.

Elshayyal, Khadijah. 'Muslim political activism in Britain: Activism and the pursuit of equality'. *The Maydan*, Ali K Vural Centre for Global Islamic Studies, George Mason University, 2019.

Liberatore, Giulia. 'Diaspora and religion: Connecting and disconnecting', in Robin Cohen and Carolin Fischer (Eds.), *Routledge Handbook of Diaspora Studies*. Routledge, 2018.

Stein, Ewan. 'Historical sociology and Middle East international relations', in Shahram Akbarzadeh (Ed.), *Routledge Handbook of International Relations in the Middle East*. Routledge, 2019.

Volpi, Frédéric. 'Shaping contention as a Salafi Movement: The rise and fall of Ansar al-Sharia in post-revolutionary Tunisia', Volpi, Frédéric and James M. Jasper (Eds.). *Microfoundations of the Arab Uprisings: Mapping Interactions between Regimes and Protesters*. Amsterdam University Press, 2018.

Volpi, Frédéric and James M. Jasper (Eds.). *Microfoundations of the Arab Uprisings: Mapping Interactions between Regimes and Protesters*. Amsterdam University Press, 2018.

Volpi, Frédéric. 'Islam, political Islam, and the state system', in Shahram Akbarzadeh (Ed.), *Routledge Handbook of International Relations in the Middle East*. Routledge, 2019.

Volpi, Frédéric and Janine A. Clark (Eds.). *Network Mobilization Dynamics in Uncertain Times in the Middle East and North Africa*. Routledge, 2019.

Volpi, Frédéric and Janine A. Clark, 'Activism in the Middle East and North Africa in times of upheaval: Social networks' actions and interactions', *Social Movement Studies* 18 (1) 2019.

Warren, David. 'Religion, politics and the anxiety of Maslaha Reasoning: The production of a Fiqh al-Thawra after the 2011 Egyptian Revolution', in Sohaira Siddiqui (Ed.), *Locating the Sharia: Legal Fluidity in Theory, History and Practice*. Brill, 2019.

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A Case Study of Muslims in Edinburgh

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Muslim Responses to European Far Right Confrontation

Mr Aurangzeb Haneef

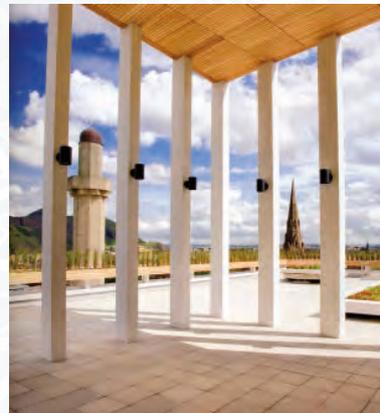
Sufyān al-Thawrī and Early Qur'ānic Exegesis

Mr Michael Rozek

Christian-Muslim Relations in the Early Period

Ms Farah Taleb

Contemporary Female Muslim Artists



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