

The HRH Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Centre
for the Study of Islam in the Contemporary World

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Celebrating Ten Years

Promoting a better understanding of contemporary Islam and the globalised Muslim world



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH



Promoting a better understanding of contemporary Islam and the globalised Muslim world



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Director's Welcome



It is an immense pleasure to introduce this 10-year report tracing back the activities of the Edinburgh Alwaleed Centre for the Study of Islam in the Contemporary World. As the Centre moves forward ambitiously on a number of exciting new initiatives, it is worth reflecting on the successes and lessons learnt this past decade. Whilst this report cannot describe at length all the activities undertaken by the Centre over the years, it does outline the diversity of our work and engagement in the field. In particular, it introduces the key perspectives and contributions that structured the life of the Centre and gave a concrete substance to the study of Islam in the contemporary world at Edinburgh University. Thanks are due to Tom Lea, our dedicated and long-serving Centre manager for bringing together all the inputs presented in this 10-year report.

The wide variety of activities that we produced and the large number of individual and collective actors that we engaged over the years can be glanced at in the data provided in the first section of the report. This information is followed by the presentation of our longest lasting research hub focusing on Muslims in Europe. In our case this means both the United Kingdom, for our national involvement, Scotland, for our more organic local interactions, and Europe for the wider context in which Muslims constitute minority communities. One of our latest strands of activities is tied to the Muslims in Europe perspective and also a reflection of the consequences of contemporary international conflicts. Our Syrian Futures Initiative directly engages local communities to help understand and help others understand better the reconstruction of communities and of their cultural and religious heritage when people are displaced.

Inter-religious interactions have long constituted a central element of the Centre's activities. The work on Muslim-Christian relations shaped the identity of the Centre in its early years. We have been keen to keep this aspect of our work very much alive recently, not least by developing this theme in a cluster of activities focusing on sub-Saharan Africa and South East Asia. As always, a crucial element of our work on Islam in the contemporary world is the didactic dimension of our approach. Engagement with schools, particularly in the Scottish context and with artists more widely have provided quite distinct practical forms of engagement over the years. We have also produced a substantial number of outreach activities involving many different public sector actors. This brief panoramic overview could not be complete without mentioning the contribution of the Centre to scholarly networks, in the UK and beyond.

These achievements over the last decade have built strong foundations for the Centre to move forward in a confident way. For this my whole-hearted thanks are due to the entire team that contributed to the life of the Centre over the years; researchers, lecturers, outreach officers, and students. Particular thanks are due to Hugh Goddard, Founding Director of the Alwaleed Centre, whose vision and commitment enabled the Centre to make such great strides in its first decade. We are also deeply grateful to Professor Jaakko Hameen-Anttila who oversaw the Centre's continued progress as interim Director before I took up the Directorship in December 2018.

Our main objective now is to increase the international reach and exposure of the Centre. A crucial step in that direction is the launch of a Masters programme on the globalised Muslim world that will bring a cohort of international students from the Muslim world and/or students interested in Islam and Muslim societies to the Centre. We are also expanding our team and the expertise we house through the appointment of new fellows and lecturers, as well as multiplying initiatives for visiting international fellows, so as to be better able to address the entirety of the Muslim world.

PROFESSOR FRÉDÉRIC VOLPI, March 2020
Director of the Alwaleed Centre and Professor of
Politics of the Muslim World

A Word from our Advisory Board Chair



I was working at the University of Glasgow when the Alwaleed Centre for the Study of Islam in the Contemporary World formally opened at the University of Edinburgh on 17th March 2010. I had heard much of its potential and ambition and its distinct international mission.

I was to witness the energy and hopes around the Centre when, later that year, the Principal, Sir Tim O'Shea, invited me to a ceremony at the university in which HRH Prince Alwaleed was awarded an Honorary Doctorate, honoris causa, in recognition of his generous contribution. When I myself joined the University of Edinburgh in late 2011 and a few years later, became the Chair of the Advisory Board, I began to appreciate how much support HRH and Alwaleed Philanthropies gave to the university and their overall engagement with some of the most pressing problems in the world today.

While there are other Alwaleed Centres in the world, Edinburgh has a distinct reputation built on both scholarship and outreach. The multiple projects and fellowships contained within the Centre connect ambitiously to the wider university through the various programmes which reflect a variety of concerns. These range from women's leadership to Syrian refugees and, underpinning many of these projects, is a scholarly focus aimed at encouraging a more nuanced conversation within the academy and the wider public.

It has been a privilege to chair the Advisory Board and I am confident that the Centre will continue to make a significant impact in Scotland and beyond.

MONA SIDDIQUI, OBE
Professor of Islamic and Interreligious Studies
University of Edinburgh

Centre History

The HRH Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Centre for the Study of Islam in the Contemporary World at the University of Edinburgh was founded in 2009 thanks to a generous endowment from Alwaleed Philanthropies: www.alwaleedphilanthropies.org.

The Edinburgh Centre is one of six Alwaleed 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 in its research and teaching, connecting different parts of the University of Edinburgh through a focus on contemporary Islam and the globalised Muslim world.



www.alwaleed.ed.ac.uk

Ten Years in Numbers



8
PhD Students



12
International Conferences



16
Academic Monographs
and Edited Volumes Published



30+
Festival Events



40+
Public Sector
Engagements and Consultations



70+
Academic Articles
and Chapters Published



£1.2m
Additional Funding
Secured



RSE
*The Royal Society
of Edinburgh*
KNOWLEDGE MADE USEFUL

100+
Local, National and International
Partners



5000+
Online Students



8000+
School Pupils Engaged



200+
Public Lectures, workshops
and seminars delivered



A World Class Centre for the Study of Muslims in Europe



Over the last ten years, the Alwaleed Centre has built a reputation as one of the UK's leading centres for research and teaching on Muslims in Britain and Europe.

In addition to publishing award-winning monographs and over 45 academic journal articles and book chapters, the Centre has undertaken a wide range of research-driven outreach projects aimed at educating local and national audiences about the UK and Europe's largest religious minority.

Here we provide a snapshot of our work, showcasing some of the Alwaleed Centre's key achievements over the course of the last ten years.



"We are very proud of the reputation we have built for our research and outreach work focused on Muslims in Britain and Europe. The Alwaleed Centre's work on this theme began with a specific focus on Muslims in Britain, developed by Postdoctoral Fellows Dr Timothy Peace, Dr Khadijah Elshayyal and Dr Alistair Hunter alongside PhD students Michael Munnik, Fayaz Alibhai and Yahya Barry. This research contributed to our understandings of the historical development of British Muslim communities, as well as questions around activism, political participation, ageing and retirement, and education and employment. Relatedly, our outreach activities with Scottish Muslims have also been crucial not only in raising awareness about Islam and the experiences of Muslims but also in supporting local community projects and initiatives.

Over the last few years we have expanded our focus to Europe with a new honours and Masters course on Muslims in Europe launched in 2018. This interdisciplinary course engages critically with various forms of governance around Islam and Muslim populations in Europe, whilst also exploring the diverse experiences of Muslims across the continent.

We have also been expanding our focus on issues of gender and leadership in Europe and beyond. In 2018 we organised an international conference on the topic of 'Muslim Female Leadership and Authority in Europe and North America', bringing together academics and activists from across Europe and the USA. The Centre is also hosting a new collaborative and comparative ERC-funded project on multi-religious encounters in urban settings (in partnership with UCL and Birmingham). You can read more about this on p14 of this report".

Dr GIULIA LIBERATORE,
Alwaleed Lecturer, Muslims in Europe



Example Publications:

**Muslim Identity Politics:
Islam, Equality and Activism in Britain**
By Khadijah Elshayyal
(published by I.B. Tauris)

**Somali, Muslim, British:
Striving in Securitised Britain**
By Giulia Liberatore
(published by Bloomsbury)

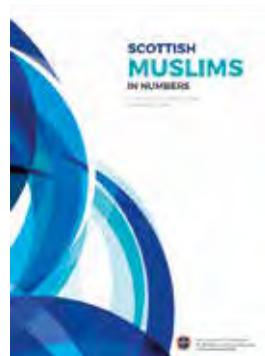
**Retirement Home?:
Ageing Migrant Workers in France
and the Question of Return**
By Alistair Hunter
(published by Springer)



Scottish Muslims in Numbers

November 2016 saw the launch of a flagship Alwaleed Centre report by Dr Khadijah Elshayyal mapping the demographic trajectory of Scotland's diverse and growing Muslim community through finely-grained analysis of the 2011 Scottish Census.

The report was launched by Anas Sarwar MSP and introduced to politicians and the public at a special event hosted by the Scottish Parliament in January 2017. Thanks to a special Knowledge Exchange and Impact Grant, the report's findings were translated into an engaging animated infographic that has received more than 40,000 online views since it was published online.



Muslims and Political Participation in Britain

It is often suggested that Muslims are underrepresented in UK politics and that Muslims tend to base their vote on primarily "Muslim" issues. To challenge this assumption, the Alwaleed Centre hosted a major international conference in April 2012 exploring the numerous ways in which British Muslims engage with politics and the political process across the UK. The conference led to an important book edited by Alwaleed Centre Postdoctoral Fellow, Dr Timothy Peace, and published by Routledge.



In order to broaden the scope and impact of the conference, the Centre delivered a special public conversation hosted by the Scottish Parliament and featuring contributions from politicians, activists and youth leaders.

Muslim Families' Educational Experiences in England and Scotland

2013 saw the publication of an important new report, funded by the Alwaleed Centre, exploring Muslim experiences of the education system in England and Scotland. The report was based on research undertaken by the Centre for Research in Education Inclusion and Diversity (CREID) at the Moray House School of Education involving interviews with 38 Muslim families across England and Scotland. The interviews explored school choices, interactions with school staff, curriculum content and further and higher education choices.



A Taste of Scottish Islam



Thanks to funding from Black and Minority Ethnic Infrastructure Scotland, and as part of the Scottish Government's 'Winter Festivals' programme, the Alwaleed Centre hosted a series of three food festivals celebrating the culinary traditions of Scotland's diverse Muslim communities.

Volunteer cooks from across Edinburgh and beyond made sure that the food cultures of more than fifteen Muslim majority and minority societies were represented. As people enjoyed the delicious food, they were treated to live music by a variety of Muslim artists and henna painting by local community members.

Colourful Heritage Project

The Alwaleed Centre is proud to have supported a unique local initiative which captures, on film, the memories and experiences of Scotland's first generation of Muslims. The Colourful Heritage project was launched publicly in November 2013 at the City Chambers in Glasgow where a large gathering of project participants and other key stakeholders celebrated the project's success. Parliamentary launches followed in both the Scottish and UK Parliaments with a related permanent exhibition now on display at Glasgow's Scotland Street School Museum. To enjoy the many resources this project has to offer, visit: www.colourfulheritage.com



"The Alwaleed Centre at the University of Edinburgh has been a core partner in realising the success of the Colourful Heritage project. Their engagement with this community-based initiative and positive support has spurred on the team and provided the extra impetus the project needed. It is refreshingly nice to see an academic institution actively engaging and working with a practical community project for Muslims in Scotland."

Tariq Shaikh
Charity Trustee, Colourful Heritage





Muslim Female Leadership and Authority in Europe and North America



Professor Amina Wadud



Dr Shuruq Naguib

This timely international 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. We were honoured to welcome Professor Amina Wadud who delivered a memorable lecture exploring the democratisation 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 Lecturer Dr Giulia Liberatore, Alwaleed Postdoctoral Fellow Dr Khadijah Elshayyal and Alwaleed Visiting PhD Scholar Tazeen Ali and plans are in place to publish an edited volume showcasing many of the papers.

Hate Has No Home Here

As part of a series of projects raising awareness of day-to-day Muslim experiences in Scotland, the Alwaleed Centre worked with a variety of partners and stakeholders to produce a series of unique animations highlighting the human impact of anti-Muslim hate crime.

Interviews were undertaken with six Scottish Muslims who had experienced prejudice or hate crime during the course of their lives. Recorded and edited by students at the Edinburgh College of Art (Reid School of Music), short extracts of these audio interviews were then set to animation by the talented team at Media Coop in Glasgow.

The result is three short but incredibly powerful animations which provide a window into the personal impact of prejudice and hate crime and offer advice on standing up to prejudice whenever we witness it.

The animations were launched in May 2018 via a major social media campaign. We hope the animations will be widely used in schools to explore the impact of hate crime and prejudice with Scotland's next generation.



"Go back home!
You guys
need to go
back home!"



Syrian Futures



Scotland has welcomed more than 2,500 refugees from Syria since the devastating conflict began in 2011. Transitioning into a very new culture and environment can be incredibly hard for many new Scottish Syrians who often arrive in Scotland with limited English and no social or professional networks.

As a response to this, the Alwaleed Centre's Outreach and Projects Coordinator, Nadin Akta, launched 'Syrian Futures' – a multi-stakeholder outreach project aimed at supporting Scottish Syrians into further and higher education and employment.

Since launching in January 2019, Syrian Futures has already had a major impact on the lives of numerous Syrians, of all ages, in Edinburgh and beyond.



"I am very proud of the Syrian Futures project which I established shortly after I joined the Alwaleed Centre as Outreach and Projects Coordinator in January 2019. Before I arrived at the Centre I had worked and volunteered with a number of different Scottish local authorities and third sector organisations, helping to support ethnic minority communities and encouraging dialogue and communication across cultures and religions. When Scotland began to welcome significant numbers

of Syrian refugees in 2015, I began working closely with Scottish local authorities to help encourage a better understanding of Syrian culture, religion and tradition and support Syrian families as they settled into their new lives and communities. As a Syrian myself, and through the many interactions and experiences I had working with Syrian refugees in Scotland, it was clear to me that education and employment were the two most important factors in helping Syrians feel happy and settled in their new home. This is why I established Syrian Futures – to offer Syrians support, advice and opportunities to access further and higher education and employment. I can already see the difference Syrian Futures has made to the lives of Syrians locally, how they have started to look for jobs, or improve their language skills and participate in educational activities. I am excited about the future of the project and look forward to increasing the project's impact over the coming years".

NADIN AKTA, Alwaleed Outreach & Projects Coordinator.

Syrian Futures Internships

The route into employment can be extremely difficult for Syrian refugees in Scotland who often find that the qualifications and experience they accrued in Syria counts for very little in the Scottish context. In addition to the huge challenges imposed by the language barrier, it is easy to see why many Syrians struggle to find rewarding jobs and careers. To help Syrians in Edinburgh and the Lothians overcome these obstacles, the Syrian Futures project works with local and national partners to provide internships in a range of industries and organisations with specialist support tailored to the needs of Arabic-speaking interns. The internship project is building momentum and we look forward to seeing it grow in scope and scale over the coming years.

"Volunteering has raised my self confidence and self esteem. I'm really looking forward to being more involved with the team to learn more about organising projects and using social media."

Joudy Maktabi started her internship with local music charity Red Note Ensemble in 2019



Consultancy and Training

Syrian Futures offers consultancy to public and private sector organisations who are looking to build stronger connections with newly-arrived Syrians in Scotland. Recent engagements have included training programmes for the Department for Work and Pensions as well as regular engagements with local authorities across the country.

University Open Days

Along with colleagues in Widening Participation and the Edinburgh University Students Union, Syrian Futures hosts special university open days for Syrians interested in applying for places at Scottish universities. Attendees receive an overview of the application process, an insight into student life from student volunteers and a thorough introduction to the many courses and qualifications offered by universities like Edinburgh. Open days end with a tour of the campus led by student volunteers from EUSA, Student Action for Refugees and the Syrian Teenagers Tutoring and Education Programme.





A University of Sanctuary

The University of Edinburgh is part of the Universities of Sanctuary network which works to inspire and support universities to develop a culture and a practice of welcome within their own institutions and their wider communities. Syrian Futures plays a key role in fostering this culture of welcoming and has already developed excellent relationships with other universities of sanctuary across the country. A recent trip saw nearly twenty young Syrians travel through to the University of St Andrews to learn more about the courses on offer, meet students and staff and take part in hands-on workshops and seminars.

Overcoming the Language Barrier

Perhaps the most significant challenge facing any Syrian arriving in the UK is the transition into a new language. Many Syrians arrive with little or no English and this represents a major barrier to educational and professional development. In response to this, the Syrian Futures project hosts weekly English classes at a variety of levels from beginner to advanced. Classes are taught by Syrian Futures volunteer Colin Hodgetts MBE who has a long history of supporting refugee communities across the UK. The time and expertise devoted to Syrian Futures by volunteers like Colin are key to the project's success and we are exceptionally grateful to all our volunteers for these valuable contributions.



Workshop on archaeology at the University of St Andrews

A Unique Befriending Scheme

In order to build relationships between the University of Edinburgh and the Scottish Syrian community, the Syrian Futures project launched a unique befriending scheme pairing students of Arabic at the university with local Syrians, offering the chance for language exchange and mutual learning. This project is of great benefit to both University of Edinburgh students and the Syrians who they are matched with, providing students with a chance to practise their spoken Arabic and Syrians a chance to work on their English.



Syrian (im)mobilities: Between Policy and People

Alongside the outreach work undertaken by the Syrian Futures project, the Alwaleed Centre has made major contributions to academic debates around refugee and asylum seeker policy in the UK, Europe and the Middle East. In 2019, the Centre hosted a major international workshop entitled 'Syrian (im)mobilities: Between policy and people' featuring both research and personal testimony from Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan as well as Scotland, the wider UK and Europe. Through the research interests of its Teaching and Research Fellow, Dr Idil Akinci, the Centre looks forward to pushing the debate forward through its research and outreach activity.



"As a researcher in migration studies, my work analyses the implications of temporary migration regimes, specifically in the Arab Gulf States, on the lived experiences and future plans of migrants. In particular, I am interested in exploring the connection between the legal exclusion of migrant populations in host societies, political and socio-economic instability in the home countries of migrants and the acquisition of citizenship from the West as a key driver of (forced) onwards migration.

My latest ethnographic work, conducted with Syrians born and raised in the United Arab Emirates, explores how some of them navigate the 'asylum-seeking route' to Western Europe, taking into consideration the ripple effects of the present political situation in Syria and its repercussions for their citizenship claims and future plans in the Gulf and in Europe.

By taking the focus away from Syria, this research invites us to consider the consequences of the Syrian civil war on nationals who live outside of the country itself, but are still affected by it to varying degrees in terms of mobility and precarity. In doing so, my work not only contributes to various initiatives and clusters at the Alwaleed Centre, such as Syrian Futures and our work on Muslims in Europe, but it also expands conceptual and methodological discussions in the field of citizenship, forced migration as well as Gulf Studies. I also volunteer as a mentor for the Council for At-Risk Academics Syria Programme, where I support Syrian academics in Turkey through the process of transforming their research proposals into papers that can be submitted to internationally-respected peer-reviewed journals".

Dr IDIL AKINCI, Alwaleed Early Career Teaching and Research Fellow.

Islam and Inter-Religious Relations



Building bridges between religions and cultures has always been at the heart of the Alwaleed Centre's research and outreach agenda. Inspired by the research expertise of its founding Director, Professor Hugh Goddard, the Centre has partnered with a variety of local and national organisations to deliver high-impact outreach projects aimed at building lasting inter-faith relationships locally, nationally and internationally.

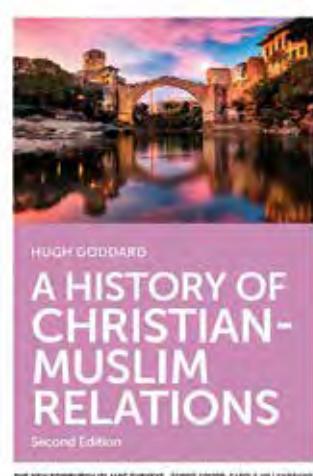
The Centre continues to develop this area of its research and outreach in various contexts of the globalised Muslim world through a research cluster led by Alwaleed Centre Founding Director, Professor Hugh Goddard, who remains a key part of the Alwaleed Centre team as an Honorary Professorial Fellow.



"Islam is the faith of roughly a quarter of humanity in the 21st century, and there are very few regions of the world where Muslims do not live alongside members of other faith communities, as either the majority or as the minority. How do Muslims engage and interact with other faith traditions, both theoretically (i.e. theologically) and practically (i.e. empirically)? This research cluster investigates the relationship between Islam and the whole range of the world's other religious traditions, in all continents, and involving community as well as academic partners.

2020 has seen the launch of a series of half-day workshops in Edinburgh, focusing firstly on Islam, and then secondly on its relationship with other traditions, in different regions of the world. The first workshop looked at the situation in East Africa, with presentations from Prof. Felicitas Becker (University of Ghent) on 'The dynamics of religious reform in Swahili-language sermons from East Africa', and Dr Arnegeir Langas (Danmission, Copenhagen) on 'Peace in Zanzibar: Proceedings of the Joint Committee of Religious Leaders in Zanzibar, 2005-2013'. The next in the series, planned for October/November, will focus on South East Asia. The provision of online resources for guidance on this subject is also envisaged".

PROFESSOR HUGH GODDARD, Founding Director of the Alwaleed Centre and Honorary Professorial Fellow.



**A History of Christian-Muslim Relations:
Second Edition**
By Hugh Goddard
(published by Edinburgh University Press)



Multi-Religious Encounters in Urban Settings

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

Giulia is working on everyday encounters among religious actors in Palermo, Sicily. In particular, she is 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.



Breaking Barriers Participants

Breaking Barriers

In partnership with the Edinburgh Interfaith Association and the Church of Scotland, the Alwaleed Centre developed a highly successful interfaith project bringing together Jews, Christian and Muslims in Scotland for deep reflection on scripture and its relevance to everyday life. Breaking Barriers ran for more than five years and employed a process known as 'Scriptural Reasoning' which encourages participants to discuss a particular theme and the ways in which Jewish, Christian and Muslim scripture can inform and challenge both our attitudes and our actions.

"Attending Breaking Barriers has been one of the most inspirational events for me in a long time. Learning about the Christian faith in such a relaxed environment was made easy by the respect and honesty shown by all. I not only learned about the Christian faith but I actually learned more about my own faith too."

Breaking Barriers delegate



International Youth Leaders Programme

As part of the Alwaleed Centre's ongoing work to promote better Muslim-Christian understanding locally and globally, the Centre partnered with the Church of Scotland, Interfaith Scotland and PROCMURA (the Programme of Christian Muslim Relations in Africa) to send five young Scottish Muslims and Christians to Rwanda to learn about Muslim-Christian dialogue in a very different social and political context. The young people who took part in the programme were selected based on their credentials as key members of their respective communities and their clear leadership potential over the coming years. The project involved participants fundraising as a team to help fund their visit to Rwanda, as well as a number of training sessions before the visit, and local project work post-visit.





Transform and Connect

Building on the success of our International Youth Leaders Programme, the Alwaleed Centre partnered with the Church of Scotland on a second project bringing together established leaders from Scotland's Christian and Muslim communities who journeyed together to Gambia to experience Christian-Muslim relations in a West African context. Alwaleed Centre Visiting Fellow, Dr Yahya Barry, took part in the project which had a profound impact on all participants.

Exploring Global Inter-Religious Relationships

In January 2020, the Alwaleed Centre hosted the first in a series of international workshops exploring Islam and inter-religious relations in key parts of the Muslim majority and Muslim minority world. This first workshop focused on sub-Saharan Africa, with a particular emphasis on West Africa. Future workshops will explore South Asia, South East Asia and Europe, with a workshop delivered each semester of 2020 and 2021.



Sunni-Shi'i Relations in Europe



“Alongside the Alwaleed Centre’s work on Islam and inter-religious relations, the Centre is also building a major new cluster of activity investigating contemporary intra-Muslim dynamics, in particular between Sunni and Shi'i communities. The project aims to capture the nature of these relations in all their diversity – those characterised by conflict but also by dialogue, co-operation or mere indifference. The Centre is working with both academic and non-academic partners to build a network of expertise on Sunni-Shi'i relations across the UK and Europe”.

Dr ELVIRE CORBOZ, Alwaleed Centre Deputy Director.

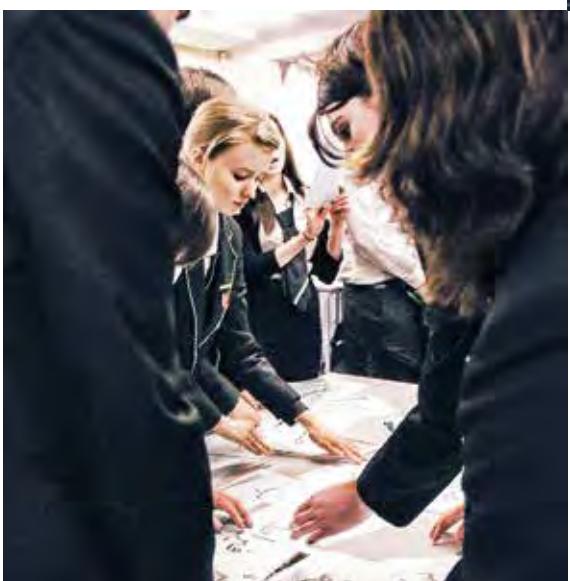
A Local and Global Classroom



Over the years, Alwaleed Centre colleagues have made major teaching contributions to a variety of Schools and Subject areas across the University of Edinburgh. From Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies to Politics, Sociology and Divinity, teaching both undergraduates and postgraduates is a core part of the Alwaleed Centre's work, but the Centre has also worked hard to contribute to classrooms beyond the walls of the university.

In 2019, the Centre launched a trail-blazing Massive Open Online Course entitled 'The Sharia and Islamic Law: An Introduction'. The course attracted more than 5000 learners from over 150 countries worldwide and will run again in both 2020 and 2021.

Closer to home, the Centre's well-established High School outreach programme has seen Centre staff and PhD students engage with over 8000 High School pupils and staff across Scotland and the wider UK.



Schools Outreach

Engaging with Scottish teachers and pupils has always been at the heart of the Alwaleed Centre's outreach agenda. The Centre has welcomed many thousands of pupils to the University of Edinburgh for engaging and challenging sessions focused on Islam, the Muslim world and the Arabic language.

Each year, the Centre engages directly with around 20 schools offering sessions ranging from understanding the Qur'an and hadiths, to Arabic language, contemporary Muslim politics and the realities of living as a Muslim



in contemporary Scotland. Many of the Centre's school engagements are part of the University of Edinburgh's Widening Participation programme which brings pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds to the university for academic taster sessions and inspirational summer school programmes.

"We were delighted to team up with the Alwaleed Centre who helped lay on a superb morning for our P7's. Alwaleed Centre staff could not have been more helpful and the Introduction to Islam they received was perfectly pitched and helped deliver an experience we would struggle to match in the classroom. We will certainly be looking to develop our links with the Alwaleed Centre in the future."

Henry Jarrold, Head of Religious and Moral Education
(Edinburgh Academy)



A Global Classroom

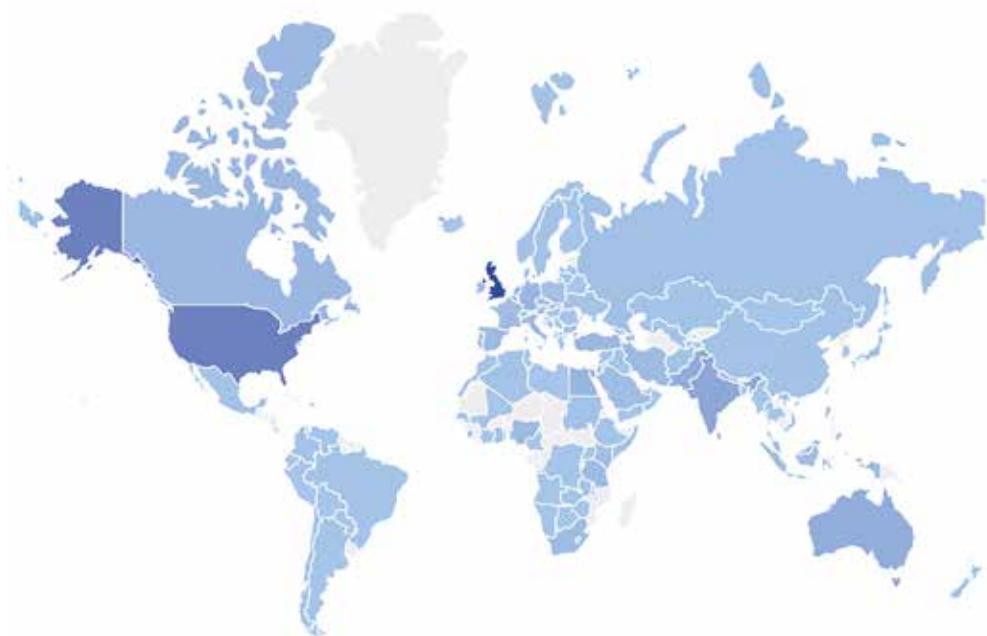
In May 2019, the Alwaleed Centre launched a ground-breaking Massive Open Online Course entitled 'The Sharia and Islamic Law: An Introduction'. Designed by Alwaleed Research Fellow, Dr David Warren (now based at Washington University, St Louis) and featuring contributions from 15 renowned academics from across the University of Edinburgh and other leading universities in Europe and North America, this unique course has so far attracted almost 5000 students from over 150 countries worldwide.



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.

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS: The Sharia and Islamic Law: An Introduction



NUMBER OF STUDENTS

1 1031



Ambassadors of Peaceful Dialogue

Delivered in partnership with Alwaleed Philanthropies, the King Abdulaziz Centre for National Dialogue and the Saudi Arabian Ministry of Education, the Ambassadors of Peaceful Dialogue Summer School project saw 100 young Saudi Arabian High School students from a variety of backgrounds journey to Edinburgh for three weeks of cultural visits and activities, lectures, intercultural exchanges and English language lessons.

Delivered in both 2017 and 2018, the project saw the Ambassadors take part in a traditional Scottish Highland Games, create unique works of graffiti art, play friendly football matches with local Edinburgh teams, plant trees in the Scottish countryside and promote Arab culture to the people of Edinburgh.

Of all the projects the Alwaleed Centre has delivered over the past ten years, this was certainly one of the most memorable and rewarding. Both cohorts of ambassadors were a joy to host, and we are deeply indebted to Alwaleed Philanthropies for funding the project over two years.



A New Masters Programme for a Globalised World

As we move into our second decade, the Alwaleed Centre's focus will become increasingly global, with an emphasis on the study of Muslim societies across the world and the many forces, ideas and trends which unite them.

As part of this global agenda, the Alwaleed Centre will be launching a major new Masters programme entitled 'The Globalised Muslim World' in the 2021/22 academic year. This unique interdisciplinary programme will bring together Political Science with Area Studies, Religious Studies and Sociology to explore the unique characteristics of contemporary Muslim societies in a variety of majority and minority contexts.

As well as exploring the inherent diversity of the world's Muslim populations, the programme will encourage students to critically analyse some of the major global, international and transnational trends and movements which cut across borders and unite Muslims across the world.

We anticipate the programme attracting a large cohort of international students and look forward to working with colleagues across various departments of the University of Edinburgh to create a rich and interdisciplinary experience for our students.



Bridging Cultures through the Arts



The visual arts represent a unique medium for creative engagement with a wide variety of audiences. With this in mind, the Alwaleed Centre has delivered an exciting and stimulating programme of public outreach events, workshops and exhibitions celebrating visual art from across the Muslim world.

Here we showcase some of the Centre's most successful arts projects and look ahead to an exciting Artists Residency programme the Centre is planning with colleagues at the Edinburgh College of Art.



"My 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 analyses 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 discusses 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, my research aims to detect the influence of stereotypes and misconceptions on both the artists and the audiences. I'm very happy that my research is contributing to the Alwaleed Centre's outreach programme through our new Artists Residency programme which we hope to launch in 2021."

FARAH TALEB, Alwaleed PhD Student

Art for the Community



One of the Alwaleed Centre's first major public arts projects saw acclaimed British Muslim graffiti artist, Mohammed Ali, paint a large public mural outside one of Edinburgh's oldest mosques. The mural project represented a creative partnership between the Alwaleed Centre, the Scottish Government and the City of Edinburgh Council, and attracted significant attention in national and international media.

The mural brings together an old Scottish proverb with a famous hadith of the Prophet Muhammad, urging people to 'spread peace amongst yourselves'. The Arabic word 'Salaam' features in front of the Edinburgh skyline, offering a gesture of peace to all those who pass by. Nine years later, the mural has become a celebrated part of Edinburgh's visual landscape, embraced by Muslims and non-Muslims alike.



Festival Partnerships

Edinburgh is famous across the world for its international festivals, and the Alwaleed Centre has forged highly creative partnerships with a range of different festivals including the Edinburgh International Book Festival, the Edinburgh International Science Festival, the Edinburgh Iranian Festival and the Edinburgh Just Festival.

These festivals offer a unique opportunity to engage large and diverse audiences with the creativity of the Muslim world, both historically and today, allowing an engagement with Islam that can help overturn prejudices and inspire curiosity.



Picturing Islam in Scotland

Images of Islam in western media are often negative and can encourage stereotyping of Muslims in the public imagination. For this reason, the Alwaleed Centre ran two extremely successful photography competitions aimed at capturing the lived experiences of Muslim in Scotland and the wider UK. Both the 'Islam in Scotland' (2015) and 'Living Islam' competitions attracted some stunning submissions which the Centre was able to display to the public as part of travelling exhibitions as well as online.



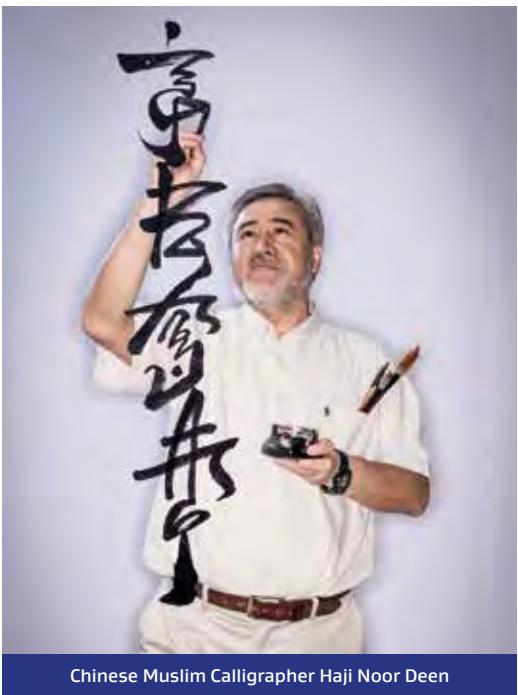
The World History of Rashid al-Din: A Masterpiece of Islamic Painting

One of the University of Edinburgh Library's most treasured manuscripts, the *Jami' al-Tawarikh* ('World History') of Rashid al-Din celebrated its 700th anniversary in 2014.

Recognised as one of the great masterpieces of medieval Islamic painting, the manuscript was produced under the Mongol Ilkhanid Dynasty and represents a history of the world as it was then known. It offers a fascinating insight into the multi-cultural, multi-religious society of the Islamic Iranian world under the Mongols and features a large number of breath-taking illustrations.



To mark this significant anniversary, the Alwaleed Centre teamed up with the University of Edinburgh's Centre for Research Collections to curate a unique exhibition featuring eighteen folios from the manuscript. The exhibition, entitled 'The World History of Rashid al-Din 1314: A Masterpiece of Islamic Painting' showcased a number of the manuscript's most beautiful colour illustrations, which look as vivid today as they did seven centuries ago. The exhibition attracted over 5000 visitors between August and October 2014 and was featured in five national newspapers.



Chinese Muslim Calligrapher Haji Noor Deen



An Edinburgh Alwaleed Centre calligraphy workshop led by Iraqi calligraphy master Jawdat Khadim

Calligraphy Workshops

Calligraphy is one of the most celebrated art forms of the Muslim world and the Alwaleed Centre has delivered a variety of workshops since 2010 led by established and emerging calligraphy masters and offering hands-on experience for participants of all ages. Memorable workshops were led by Iraqi-Scottish calligrapher Jawdat Khadim, rising British star Ismail Hussayn and Chinese master Haji Noor Deen.



Sufi Festival

The Alwaleed Centre is a proud supporter of the Scottish Sufi Festival which delivered its inaugural programme in the summer of 2019. The Sufi Festival's core mission is to engage with non-Muslims of all faiths and none, offering a window into the spiritual and creative dimensions of contemporary Islam. The festival is a partnership between the Alwaleed Centre, Creative Scotland, Amal Saïd Foundation and the Safera Foundation and attracted over 2500 visitors over the course of its two-day programme.



An International Artists Residency Programme

Building on the Alwaleed Centre's highly successful creative arts project, and inspired by the research of the Centre's PhD student Farah Taleb, the Centre is now planning a major Artists Residency programme in partnership with the Edinburgh College of Art. The programme will see dynamic emerging artists from across the Middle East and North Africa visit Edinburgh in order to create an original piece of artwork inspired by their time in Scotland's capital. Artists will also be encouraged to engage with staff and students at the University of Edinburgh as well as the general public.

Public Sector Engagement



Alwaleed Centre scholars have made regular contributions to policy debates and public sector training programmes aimed at increasing knowledge and understanding of Islam and Muslims among policy makers and public servants. Over the years, the Centre has engaged with government ministers, police officers, high court judges and local authorities, offering advice and guidance grounded in world-leading research.

Police Training



Scottish police officers receive essential training from Alwaleed Centre academic staff



Attendee feedback from 'Judging in the Social Context: Equality and Diversity' training session on Islam delivered by the Alwaleed Centre for the Judicial Institute Scotland.

Judicial Studies Training

With the rapid growth in Scotland's Muslim population over the course of the last two decades, the judicial system in Scotland has seen a growing number of court cases involving Muslims of all ages. Over the last ten years, the Alwaleed Centre has offered support to the Scottish Judiciary in the form of focused training programmes exploring the diversity of Scotland's Muslim communities, as well as the complex process of securing expert testimony on matters relating to the Islamic faith and its relationship to culture.

'Extraordinarily informative and thought-provoking'

'This was an excellent session –'

'well-presented and hugely informative'

'Eye opening and very helpful to me'



Parliament Events

The last decade has seen the Alwaleed Centre make significant contributions to the life of the Scottish Parliament through a number of high profile events and the foundation of a Cross Party Group on the Middle East and South Asia. The Centre's research on Muslims in Europe has made vital interventions to policy debates in Scotland and the next ten years will see the Alwaleed Centre redoubling its efforts to engage with policy makers, encouraging an evidence-based approach which affect and reflect Scotland's largest religious minority.

Teaching The Teachers

Alongside the Alwaleed Centre's core work with High School pupils in Scotland, the Centre also makes essential contributions to the training of teachers across the country. Over the past ten years, the Centre has delivered numerous Continuing Professional Development sessions for teachers across Edinburgh and beyond, and also developed an important partnership with the University of Aberdeen, delivering modules on Islam for trainee primary and secondary school teachers. Teaching the teachers remains a priority for the Centre and we look forward to developing further partnerships in the years to come.

"As a teacher educator I have taken student teachers to the Alwaleed Centre. On each occasion the hospitality and the scholarly presentations have been extremely valued by the students and it has greatly enhanced their understanding of Islam and its relationship to the west."

Dr Graeme Nixon, Lecturer, School of Education,
University of Aberdeen.



British Association for Islamic Studies



The Alwaleed Centre is proud of the role it has played in the foundation and development of the British Association for Islamic Studies. The Centre was central to the process which led to the birth of BRAIS in 2012 and, since then, has operated as the Management Hub for the Association, working closely with BRAIS Officers and the BRAIS Council.

In this capacity, the Alwaleed Centre organises the BRAIS Annual Conference which brings more than 200 scholars together from a wide variety of disciplines for two days of papers, plenaries and essential cross-disciplinary networking.

Through its central role in BRAIS, the Edinburgh Alwaleed Centre has become integral to the landscape of UK Islamic Studies and we look forward to continuing to support BRAIS over the coming years.



Developing a Global Agenda

Over the next ten years, the Alwaleed Centre's primary objective will be increasing its international reach and exposure through a series of key programmes, appointments and publications.

The launch of the new 'Globalised Muslim World' Masters programme will represent a crucial step in this direction and the Centre will be appointing a new Lecturer to drive this and other projects forward. In addition, plans are in place to appoint a Research Fellow with expertise in South East Asia as well as a series of collaborative Research Fellowships co-funded by the Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities at the University of Edinburgh with the aim of building the Alwaleed Centre's network of scholarly connections across the world. Examples of some of the Centre's new and future programmes, projects and appointments can be found in the pages that follow.

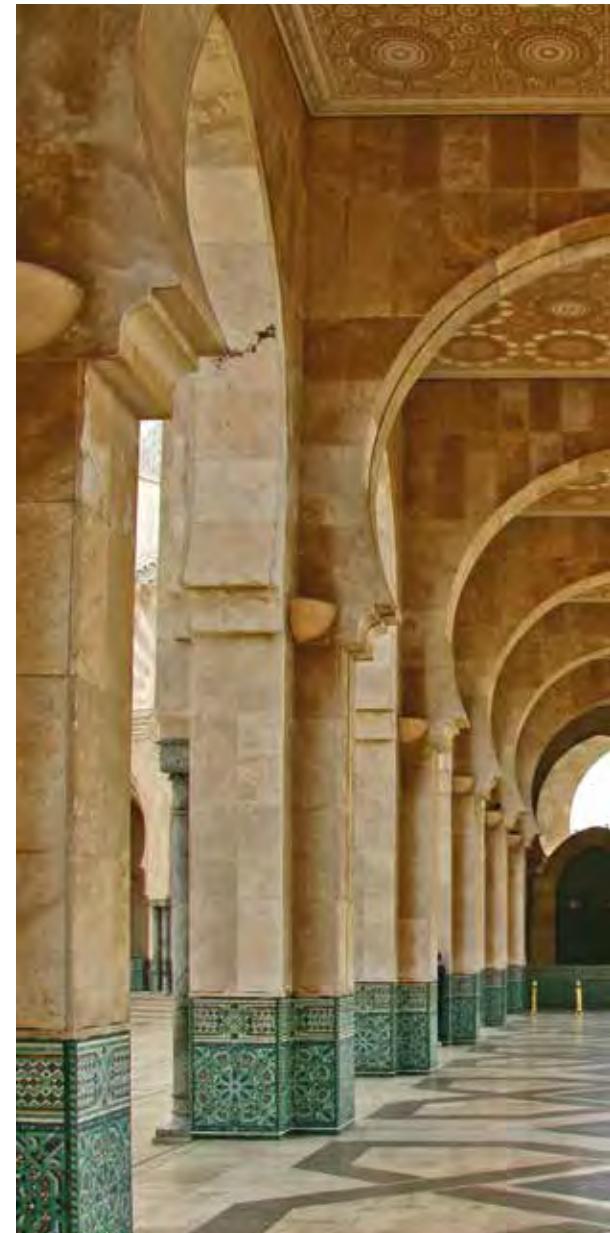
This new global agenda will not, however, come at the expense of our vital outreach work locally. Our High School outreach programme will continue to be at the heart of our activity and the Centre's Syrian Futures project will continue to grow and develop. This combination of global reach and local impact will be the hallmark of the Alwaleed Centre's work as we move forward with confidence into our second decade.

A Unique New Masters Programme

The Alwaleed Centre will be launching a major new Masters programme entitled 'Globalised Muslim World' in the 2021/22 academic year. This unique interdisciplinary programme will bring together Political Science with Area Studies, Religious Studies and Sociology to explore the unique characteristics of contemporary Muslim societies in a variety of majority and minority contexts.

As well as exploring the inherent diversity of the world's Muslim populations, the programme will encourage students to critically analyse some of the major global, international and transnational trends and movements which cut across borders and unite Muslims across the world.

We anticipate the programme attracting a large cohort of international students and look forward to establishing working with colleagues across various departments of the University of Edinburgh to create a rich and interdisciplinary experience for our students.





Edinburgh Studies of the Globalised Muslim World

Edited by the Alwaleed Centre's Director, Professor Frederic Volpi, and published by Edinburgh University Press, this major new book series seeks to investigate the dynamics of Muslim societies in a globalised world. It considers the boundaries of the contemporary Muslim world, their construction, their artificiality or durability. It sheds new light on what it means to be part of the Muslim world today, for both those individuals and communities who live in Muslim-majority countries and those who reside outside and are part of a globalised ummah. Its analysis encompasses the micro and the macro level, exploring the discourses and practices of individuals, communities, states and transnational actors who create these dynamics. It offers a multidisciplinary perspective on the salient contemporary issues and interactions that shape the internal and external relations of the Muslim world.

Teaching Arabic Globally

Arabic today is a truly global language, and millions of learners choose to learn it as a second language, be it for economic, religious, or academic reasons. The University of Edinburgh has a 250-year history in teaching the Arabic language, and is a globally renowned centre for excellence in Arabic teaching and learning.



With this in mind, the Alwaleed Centre will be delivering a major conference in September 2020 entitled 'Teaching Arabic Globally'. The conference will bring together Arabic teachers from across the world and will focus on creating innovative and communicative teaching material and enhancing the learning of Arabic in practice. Conference organisation is being led by Alwaleed Centre Teaching Fellow in Arabic, Dr Jona Fras.





Mediterranean Islamisms

This new research cluster led by Alwaleed Centre Director Frederic Volpi and Alwaleed Postdoctoral Research Fellow Alexis Blouët aims to provide a theoretically-informed, empirical account of how Islamism and the representations of Islamism have been transformed by endogenous and exogenous short-term factors in the Mediterranean after the 2011 Arab uprisings. It reveals how the transformations of Islamism have in their turn reshaped state-society relations and societal views and practices in connection to liberal-democracy. Considering the case of Islamist movements in power in Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey, it elucidates the practical role played by these actors on institutional-legal, political, socio-cultural and religious changes by examining the policy initiatives of elected Islamists governments.



"I was delighted to join the Alwaleed Centre's team as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in September 2019. My primary focus during my time at the Centre will be the Mediterranean Islamisms research project which aims to produce a comparative approach to analysing Islamist parties' actions in governance around the Mediterranean region.

My background is in law and my dissertation research looked at constitution-making in Egypt after the January 25th revolution. Building on my legal expertise, I am developing a new course as part of the Alwaleed Centre's new Globalised Muslim World Masters programme entitled 'Law and Power in the Muslim World' and I look forward to engaging with students from a variety of academic backgrounds. I am also very excited to be contributing to the Centre's Massive Open Online Course on the Sharia and Islamic Law which will be running for the second and third times in 2020 and 2021. This course is an excellent example of the Alwaleed Centre's role in disseminating important knowledge about Islam and the Muslim world to a diverse public audience and I am happy that my own research can play a role in this process".

Dr ALEXIS BLOUET, Alwaleed Postdoctoral Research Fellow.



A New Programme of Research Fellowships

The Alwaleed Centre is delighted to be partnering with the Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities (IASH) to offer a series of Postdoctoral and Senior Research Fellowships for scholars working on contemporary Islam and the globalised Muslim world.

IASH is one of the world's premier Institutes for Advanced Study, supporting innovative research and public engagement activities across the arts, humanities and social sciences through a range of interdisciplinary and international projects and programmes. We look forward to working closely with IASH on this exciting new project.



A Growing Team

Plans are already in place to appoint a Lecturer on the Globalised Muslim World to drive our new Masters programme forward. This new post will also help support a range of additional research and outreach activities investigating global dynamics across the contemporary Muslim world.



Over the last ten years, the Alwaleed Centre has developed a number of close connections with institutions in South East Asia, particularly Indonesia, and the appointment of a new Early Career Teaching and Research Fellow on Contemporary Muslim Interactions in Southeast Asia will help the Centre deepen its ties to the region and foster collaborative research. In addition, and to mark the contribution of the Alwaleed Centre's Founding Director, Professor Hugh Goddard, the Centre will be offering a PhD Studentship focused on Islam and Inter-Religious Interactions in Southeast Asia.

Meet the Team



The Alwaleed Centre has been fortunate to attract a superb cohort of scholars and professional services staff since its opening in 2010. Here we provide a full list of current Alwaleed staff, fellows and PhD students, followed by details of previous colleagues who have moved on to new and exciting roles.

We look forward to growing our team over the coming years as we develop our research interests in the globalised Muslim world.

For more details on opportunities at the Alwaleed Centre, including visiting fellowships, visit www.alwaleed.ed.ac.uk.

Centre Staff and Fellows

Professor Frédéric Volpi

Frédéric Volpi is Professor of the Politics of the Middle East and Director of the Edinburgh Alwaleed Centre.



He earned his PhD from the University of Cambridge in 2000. Before coming to Edinburgh in 2018, he was a Senior Lecturer in the School of International Relations at the University of St Andrews. He also taught and researched at Sussex University, Bristol University, and Sciences Po, Paris.

Frédéric is interested in the processes of democratisation and authoritarianism in the contemporary Muslim world, in the role of Islamist actors in social and political mobilisations, in the construction of the discourse of political Islam, and in the contemporary regional and transnational dynamics of North Africa and the Mediterranean region.



Dr Elvire Corboz

Elvire Corboz is Lecturer in Contemporary Islam and Middle East in the University of Edinburgh's Department of Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies, and Deputy Director of the Alwaleed Centre.

She earned a DPhil in Oriental Studies from the University of Oxford in 2010, with her dissertation winning (jointly) the 2011 BRISMES Leigh Douglas Memorial Prize. Before coming to Edinburgh, she worked as postdoctoral research associate and lecturer at Princeton University (2011-2013), lecturer at Rutgers University (2013-2014), and assistant professor at Aarhus University (2014-2018).

Elvire's research interests are in contemporary Shi'ism, with a particular focus on the Shi'i clerical establishment and its transnational networks, Iraqi Shi'i Islamism, as well as Shi'i communities and institutions in the United Kingdom. She is also interested in the study of Sunni-Shi'i relations, especially in European contexts.



Dr Giulia Liberatore

Giulia Liberatore is Lecturer in Muslims in Europe, currently working on a major ERC-funded project on Multi-Religious Encounters in Urban Settings with Ammara Maqsood (UCL) and Leslie Fesenmyer (Birmingham). The project will theorise inter-religious interactions in non-secular contexts through comparative ethnographic work in Italy, Pakistan, and Kenya.

Giulia joined the Alwaleed Centre in 2017 as a Leverhulme Early Career Fellow working on a project on female Islamic scholarship and guidance in the UK.

She has a PhD in Anthropology from the London School of Economics (LSE). Her monograph, which is based on her doctoral research, is entitled *Somali, Muslim, British: Striving in Securitized Britain* (2017) and was awarded the LSE Monographs on Social Anthropology/ Bloomsbury First Book Competition Prize 2016. The book chronicles the aspirations of different generations of Somali women as they respond to publicly charged questions of what it means to be Muslim, Somali, and British. Between 2014-16 Giulia worked at the Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS), University of Oxford.



Dr İdil Akıncı

İdil is an Alwaleed Early Career Teaching and Research Fellow with research interests in migration and identity.

She joined the Alwaleed Centre in September 2019 as an Early Career Teaching and Research Fellow. Her research interests and experience centre around the issues of national identity, citizenship and belonging in multicultural societies, with a focus on the Arab Gulf States.

She holds a PhD in Migration Studies from the University of Sussex (2018), where she explored the everyday experiences of national identity and citizenship by young Arab migrant communities and Emirati citizens in Dubai. İdil also conducted fieldwork in Dubai with South Asian migrant communities during 2012-2013 as a part

of her MA degree in Sociology at the City, University of London. She has published her work in *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, and *Journal of Ethnic and Racial Studies*.

İdil has taught a number of undergraduate courses in sociology, migration, human geography, and social anthropology both at the University of Sussex and Zayed University in Dubai. She is currently working on her post-doctoral research, where she investigates how Syrians, born and raised in the Arabian Gulf States, develop new strategies to acquire alternative citizenship from Western European countries, taking into consideration the ripple effects of the political situation present in Syria and the ramifications of such upon their relationship to citizenship and future plans, within the Gulf and Europe.



Dr Alexis Blouët

Alexis is an Alwaleed Postdoctoral Research Fellow working on the Mediterranean Islamisms project.

Alexis obtained a PhD in Law from University Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne. His dissertation dealt with constitution-making in Egypt after the January 25th 2011 Revolution, and its first part was accomplished in Cairo where he stayed from 2011 to 2014. His work received a prestigious award from the Varenne Institute and was published in French by LGDJ editions in 2019. His research interests are focused on how legal theory can contribute to a better

understanding of power in the region while trying to refine legal theory's analytical tools through the prism of politics and actors in the area.

Alexis has taught in Cairo University, Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne University and Paris Ouest Nanterre la Défense University. He has also carried-out postdoctoral fieldwork in Beirut as part of the French Institute for Near East Studies (IFPO). As part of his work at the Alwaleed Centre he will teach a new course starting in 2020 dealing with law and politics in the Middle East.



Dr Jona Fras

Jona is an Alwaleed Teaching Fellow in Arabic with research interests in Arabic learning and teaching.

He 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.

Jona has been teaching at Edinburgh's Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies department since 2013, primarily Arabic in both postgrad-

uate 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 has been involved with undergraduate teaching of Arabic at IMES, and has also contributed 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.



Thomas Lea

Tom is the Alwaleed Centre's General Manager, overseeing the Centre's major projects, outreach programme and general administration.

Tom is a graduate of the University of Edinburgh, holding both an MA in Religious Studies and an MSc in Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies.

Tom manages all aspects of the Alwaleed Centre's administration including its many projects across Scotland and the UK, working closely with Muslim communities, schools, local authorities, the police and the Scottish Government to encourage a deeper understanding and

appreciation of Islam and Islamic culture. He also plays a key role in developing the Alwaleed Centre's relationships with other universities, both in the UK and across the world.

Tom is a member of the BBC's Scottish Religious Advisory Committee, the Scottish Joint Committee for Religious and Moral Education and was Chair of the Edinburgh Just Festival Board of Directors. He also manages the British Association for Islamic Studies – the UK's only learned society and professional organisation focused on enhancing research and teaching about Islam and Muslim cultures and societies in UK higher education.



Nadin Akta

Nadin moved to Scotland from Syria in 2008.

Her interests in communication and cooperation across cultures led to her graduating with a Masters in Intercultural Business Communication and TESOL from Edinburgh Napier University in 2014.

Since finishing her studies, Nadin has worked and volunteered with a number of different Scottish local councils 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 Scottish local authorities to help encourage a better understanding of Syrian culture, religion and tradition and support Syrian families as they settled into their new lives and communities.

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. In 2019 she founded the Syrian Futures project which supports Scottish Syrians of all ages into further and higher education and employment.

Alwaleed Centre Visiting, Associate and Honorary Research Fellows



Dr Yahya Barry

Yahya is a Visiting Fellow at the Alwaleed Centre with research interests in Islamophobia, European Right-wing Populism & Christian-Muslim Relations in West Africa.

Yahya is a certified Minister of Religion (BA Theology, Islamic University of Madinah). He studied Religion in Peace & Conflict (MA, Uppsala, 2014) and the Religious Roots of Europe (MA, Copenhagen, 2013). His PhD (Edinburgh, 2019) researched Muslim

responses to Right-wing Populism in the UK and Scandinavia. He is consulted by the BBC Religion & Ethics board from 2016 to present and is a regular contributor to BBC Scotland's Sunday Morning With programme.

As part of his Visiting Fellowship with the Alwaleed Centre, Yahya is pursuing a research project studying and comparing Christian-Muslim relations in Ghana and Scotland.



Dr Daan Beekers

Daan is a Visiting Fellow at the Alwaleed Centre working on religious commitment, heritage and Muslim-Christian comparison in Europe.

Daan works on pluralism, religious commitment, heritage and the anthropology of Islam and Christianity in Europe. He obtained a PhD in Anthropology from the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam (2015), based on an ethnographic study of religious commitment among young Protestant Christians and Sunni Muslims in the Netherlands. Subsequently, he took up a postdoctoral position at the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies of Utrecht

University, where he studied the abandonment and repurposing of church buildings in the Netherlands, with a special focus on the inter-religious interactions and discourses on heritage that these give rise to.

Daan came to Edinburgh in 2018 to join the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities as a postdoctoral research fellow (October 2018-July 2019). As a visiting fellow at the Alwaleed Centre, he is working on a set of publications that focus on developing a comparative anthropology of Muslim and Christian lived religion.



Dr Khadijah Elshayyal

Khadijah is a Visiting Fellow at the Alwaleed Centre specialising in British Muslim identity politics and representation.

She recently completed successive postdoctoral and teaching fellowships at the University of Edinburgh where she organised and taught on a number of courses across Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies and the School of Divinity. With a specialism in the contemporary history of Muslims in Britain, she received her

PhD from Royal Holloway, University of London. Her research interests lie in the representation, political and cultural activism of Muslims and ethnic minorities in the UK. She is author of *Muslim Identity Politics: Islam, Activism and Equality in Britain* (I.B. Tauris, 2018) and *Scottish Muslims in Numbers*: understanding Scotland's Muslims through the 2011 Census (University of Edinburgh, 2016).



Professor Hugh Goddard

Hugh is an Honorary Professorial Fellow at the Alwaleed Centre with research expertise on Christian-Muslim relations and was the Founder-Director of the Alwaleed Centre from 2009-2017.

He was an undergraduate in Oxford, where he studied Islamic History under Albert Hourani, and then took his doctorate from the Centre for the Study of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations in Birmingham, where his supervisor was David Kerr. He has worked and

studied in the Middle East, in Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt, and has also undertaken a number of research visits to other regions of the Islamic World, including Pakistan, India, Nigeria, Malaysia, Indonesia and Central Asia.

Prior to moving to Edinburgh he worked in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies in the University of Nottingham, where he served as Professor of Christian-Muslim Relations from 2004.



Dr Ewan Stein

Ewan is a Senior Associate Fellow at the Alwaleed Centre and Senior Lecturer in International Relations in the School of Political and Social Science, University of Edinburgh. He received his PhD in International Relations from the London School of Economics and holds MAs in both Arab Studies (Georgetown University) and Arabic (University of Edinburgh).

Ewan 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.

Alwaleed Centre PhD Students



Aurangzeb Haneef

Aurangzeb joined the Alwaleed Centre as an Outreach PhD Student in September 2014. His research is focussed on early Islamic intellectual history, including the development of hadith, jurisprudence, and tafsir in the 8th Century CE, through the life and works of Sufyān al-Thawrī (d. 778). For Aurangzeb, understanding

the formative period of Islamic intellectual history is crucial in order to understanding Islam as a whole. As a Pakistani national, he is also interested in contemporary issues of religion, conflict, and peacebuilding.



Michael Rozek

Michael joined the Alwaleed Centre as a PhD student in September 2018. His project examines two intellectual-religious developments that occurred simultaneously from the Arab Conquests through the Abbasid Caliphate: the emergence and development of Christian apologetics and Islamic law.



Farah Taleb

Farah joined the Alwaleed Centre as a PhD student in September 2018. Her research investigates the place of contemporary women artists from the Arab world, Iran and Turkey in local, regional and global art scenes. It analyses the different aspects of work by the younger generation of women artists and its relation to both Global art and traditional Islamic art.

Former Colleagues

Professor Jaakko Hameen-Anttila

Jaakko was Interim Director of the Alwaleed Centre from 2017-2018. He is Professor of Arabic and Islamic Studies in the University of Edinburgh's Department of Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies with research interests in translation and textual transmission, the Shahname and its sources, life of Zarathustra (in Islamic sources), Late Antiquity and Early Arab-Islamic culture, the Qur'an and Classical Arabic and Persian literature.

Dr Alistair Hunter

Alistair joined the Alwaleed Centre in 2015 as a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow working on the research project 'Burying Our Differences' which explored how dying and death are experienced and commemorated by Muslim populations of migrant origin in Britain and France. Alistair is now a Senior Lecturer in Health and Social Policy in the University of Glasgow's School of Interdisciplinary Studies.

Dr Yuka Kadoi

Yuka held the post of Outreach Postdoctoral Fellow (Islamic Civilisation) at the Alwaleed Centre from 2012-2015. Yuka is an art historian with particular expertise in the art and material culture of the Persian world after the 7th century. She is currently running an FWF-sponsored project on the historiography of Persian art 1900-1945 at the University of Vienna.



Dr Timothy Peace

Tim held the post of Outreach Postdoctoral Fellow (Muslims in Britain) at the Alwaleed Centre from 2012-2015. Tim is now Lord Kelvin Adam Smith Fellow in Politics at the University of Glasgow working on comparative European politics with particular interests in religion and politics, social movements and political activism, migration and integration, racism, populism and the far right.

Dr David Warren

David held the post of Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Alwaleed Centre from 2016-2019. He is a scholar of contemporary Islam whose research analyses the politics and discourses of the Muslim scholarly-elite (the ulama), with a particular focus on the Arab Spring and its aftermath. David is now a Postdoctoral Associate at the Washington University in St. Louis.

Lilly Jenkins

Lilly joined the Alwaleed Centre in 2015 as its Outreach and Administrative Coordinator. During her three years with the Centre she led on a number of projects including a hugely successful food festival, a unique Summer School programme for 100 young Saudi students and a creative animation campaign exploring the impact of anti-Muslim hate crime.

Rosie Mellor

Rosie was the Alwaleed Centre's first professional services appointment, joining the Centre as Administrative and Outreach Officer in September 2010. Rosie played a key role in establishing the administrative mechanisms of the British Association for Islamic Studies and also made major contributions to the Centre's outreach programme.

Dr Tazeen Ali

Tazeen was a visiting PhD Student at the Alwaleed Centre from 2017-2019. Her doctoral research investigated how American Muslim women negotiate their marginal status within their patriarchal religious communities in the context of a gendered and racialized Islamophobia that questions their national belonging. Tazeen is now Assistant Professor of Religion and Politics at the John C. Danforth Center, Washington University in St. Louis.

Dr Fayaz Alibhai

Fayaz joined the Alwaleed Centre as an Outreach PhD student in September 2012. His PhD research explored the ways in which Muslim communities in Edinburgh participate in the public sphere and aspire to contribute to the strength of the city's social, cultural and intellectual fabric. Fayaz is now based at the Aga Khan University, London.

Dr Michael Munnik

Michael was a PhD student at the Alwaleed Centre from 2012-2015. His PhD research explored the relationship between the Scottish Muslim community and the media, focusing on how the participation of Muslims in the media has changed the picture that is produced. Michael is now Lecturer in Social Science Theories and Methods at Cardiff University.

Dr Francesco Sermotich-Cappellari

Francesco joined the Alwaleed Centre as an Outreach PhD Student in September 2012. His PhD research explored the spiritual dimensions of Islamic calligraphy through a study of contemporary calligraphy masters working in Turkey.

Selected Monographs



Alwaleed Centre academic colleagues have published widely on a diverse range of subjects. From British Somali Muslim communities to the Arab spring, Alwaleed Centre publications represent major interventions in academic conversation on contemporary Islam and the globalised Muslim world. Here we showcase eight key monographs and edited volumes. A full list of Alwaleed Centre academic outputs can be found on pages 40-44.

Muslim Identity Politics: Islam, Equality and Activism in Britain

By Khadijah Elshayyal (published by I.B. Tauris)



The surge in divisive and far-right politics and growing Islamophobia in Britain pose new challenges for Muslim advocacy organisations. British Muslim activism has taken centre stage in the public sphere as a result. Yet for over fifty years Muslim advocacy groups have worked to preserve religious identity, lobby the state and provide concerted responses to the political establishment. This is the first book to chart critically the national and global factors influencing the political mobilisation of British Muslim activists as Muslims. Khadijah Elshayyal traces the changes of thought, direction and method within Muslim identity politics after 1960, noting key organisations and turning points such as the Rushdie Affair, the 9/11 attacks, the 7/7 bombings and the current conflict in Syria.

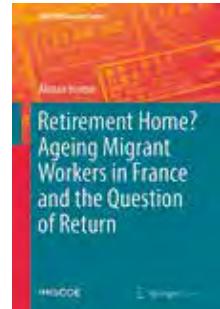
Somali, Muslim, British: Striving in Securitised Britain

By Giulia Liberatore (published by Bloomsbury)



Somalis are one of the most chastised Muslim communities in Europe. Depicted in the news as victims of female genital mutilation, perpetrators of gang violence, or more recently, as radical Islamists, Somalis have been cast as a threat to social cohesion, national identity, and security in Britain and beyond. *Somali, Muslim, British* shifts attention away from these public representations to provide a detailed ethnographic study of Somali Muslim women's engagements with religion, political discourses, and public culture in the United Kingdom.

Winner of the LSE Monographs on Social Anthropology/Bloomsbury First Book Competition Prize 2016.



Retirement Home?: Ageing Migrant Workers in France and the Question of Return

By Alistair Hunter (*published by Springer*)

This open access book offers new insights into the ageing-migration nexus and the nature of home. Documenting the hidden world of France's migrant worker hostels, it explores why older North and West African men continue to live past retirement age in this sub-standard housing. Conventional wisdom holds that at retirement labour migrants ought to instead return to their families in home countries, where their French pensions would have far greater purchasing power.



European Social Movements and Muslim Activism: Another World But with Whom?

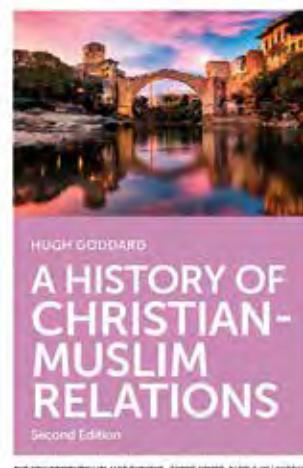
By Dr Timothy Peace (*published by Palgrave MacMillan*)

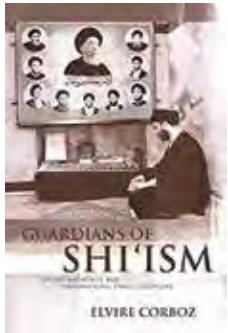
How do progressive social movements deal with religious pluralism? In this book, Timothy Peace uses the example of the alter-globalisation movement to explain why social movement leaders in Britain and France reacted so differently to the emergence of Muslim activism.

A History of Christian-Muslim Relations

By Hugh Goddard (*Second edition published by Edinburgh University Press*)

Christians and Muslims comprise the world's two largest religious communities. This book looks at the history of their relationship – part peaceful co-existence and part violent confrontation – from their first encounters in the medieval period up to the present. It emphasises the theological, cultural and political context in which perceptions and attitudes have developed and gives a depth of historical insight to the complex current Christian-Muslim interactions across the globe.





Guardians of Shi'ism: Sacred Authority and Transnational Family Networks

By Elvire Corboz

(published by Edinburgh University Press)

Based on a political sociology of two families of religious scholars, al-Hakim and al-Khu'i, Elvire Corboz explains the internal workings of transnational leadership patterns in Shi'ism for the first time.



Microfoundations of the Arab Uprisings

Edited by Frederic Volpi and James M. Jasper

(published by Amsterdam University Press)

This book brings together a roster of prominent contributors to present a strategic interactionist perspective on the study of contentious politics in the Middle East in response to the Arab uprisings. The common thread among the contributions is an interest in the micro-level interactions between various strategic players, including not only the mobilisation of protestors during the uprisings but also the responses of regimes. The book also examines short to medium-term adaptations of the regimes and the collective action of opponents in the post-uprisings period, as well as the subsequent trajectories of the protesters themselves in the face of new forms of authoritarianism or democratisation.

Le pouvoir pré-constituant: Analyse conceptuelle et empirique du processus constitutionnel égyptien après la Révolution du 25 janvier 2011

By Alexis Blouet

(published by Fondation Varenne)

A study of the Arab Spring, from the fall of Hosni Mubarak in 2011 to that of Mohamed Morsi in 2013, through a reflection on constitutional law. The author proposes a new conception of pre-constituent power based on Olivier Beaud's research on constitutional processes.

Winner of the prestigious award of the Varenne Foundation award for best PhD thesis.



Full List of Academic Outputs 2010-2020



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