



New Exhibition in Partnership with the History of Science Museum Astronomy and the Art of the Astrolabe in the Islamic World

This joint exhibition, entitled ‘Lines of Faith: Astronomy and the Art of the Astrolabe in the Islamic World’ uses dramatic graphics, a giant hands-on device, decorative visuals, and video projection to complement the exquisite historical objects. The installation of the new exhibition in the Centre’s Gallery was completed on 11 September. This exhibition was created in partnership with the History of Science Museum, University of Oxford, curated by Dr Stephen Johnston and Dr Afifi al-Akiti. The Museum has lent a dozen extraordinary objects dating from the 10th to the 19th centuries CE.

The focus of the exhibition is the astrolabe, the most iconic of early scientific instruments. First devised by ancient Greek astronomers, it was transformed and improved in the Islamic world, serving as a valuable tool for over 1000 years. Like the modern app, users can hold the sky in their hands to tell time and understand space. Adapted for discovering prayer times and transformed into an object of beauty, the astrolabe brought together science, art, craft and religion in a single powerful object.

The exhibition showcases a variety of astrolabes from

different parts of the Islamic world, enabling visitors to learn about how these objects were made and employed for temporal and navigational purposes.

Included in the exhibition are several



*Astrolabe. Indo-Persian, 17th Century.
HSM inv. 33411.*

examples of astrolabes ‘in parts’, which make it possible for visitors to better understand the ingenuity with which these instruments were crafted and how they functioned in their users’ hands.

The exhibition will run for a year and feature a series of related public events, with guided public tours starting from November.

Securities Commission–OCIS Roundtable Restoring Humanity in Finance



Participants of the SC–OCIS Roundtable

The 15th SC–OCIS Roundtable took place on 7–8 September 2024 at the Centre. The inaugural session featured addresses by Dato’ Mohammad Faiz Azmi, Executive Chairman of the Securities Commission Malaysia, and Dr Farhan Nizami, Director of OCIS. HRH Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah, Sultan of Perak,

delivered a special address, emphasizing the importance of businesses taking responsibility for their societal and environmental impacts.

Professor Mihir Desai (Harvard Business School) delivered a thought-provoking talk, contending that morality need not be added to finance, because it is inherently a part of it, as finance relates to the stewardship of capital and entrusting others with resources over time. He called for a reintroduction of the humanities into finance, arguing that storytelling and moral frameworks are essential to guide financial practices. Other sessions covered the topics of integrating Maqasid al-Shariah into financial practices, measuring outcomes of sustainable finance initiatives, and the role of Islamic social finance in addressing global challenges. The discussions highlighted the need to restore finance’s moral foundations to better serve humanity and tackle pressing global issues.

Michaelmas Term Seminars

The following lectures and seminars will be held at the Centre at 5 p.m.

16th October: Dr Timothy Cooper (University of Cambridge), 'Moral Atmospheres: Islam and Media in a Marketplace'

22nd October: Dr Murad Banaji (University of Oxford), 'COVID-19 in India: Epidemic, Inequality, and Propaganda'

23rd October: Professor Philippe Sands (University College London), 'On Genocide: Then and Now'

30th October: Professor Anoush Ehteshami (Durham University), 'Iran's Crisis of Governance'

5th November: Dr Taha Yasin Arslan (Istanbul Medeniyet University), 'Mirror of the Universe: The Evolution of the Astrolabe'

6th November: Sir John Jenkins (Former UK Ambassador to Saudi Arabia), 'History and the Modern Middle East: Do Policy Makers Need a Sense of the Past?'

13th November: Sir Peter Gross (Former Lord Justice of Appeal), 'English Judges in Muslim Countries: Synergies and Sensitivities in Promoting the Rule of Law'

20th November: Lord Neuberger (Former President of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom), 'Threats to the Rule of Law'

26th November: Dr Suzanne Bartington (University of Birmingham), 'Air Quality in Oxford: Past, Present and Future'

28th November: Sir Paul Collier (University of Oxford), 'Left Behind: A New Economics for Neglected Places'

4th December: Professor Tomáš Halík (Charles University, Prague), 'Engaging with the Contemporary World: A Multi-Religious Perspective'

Memorandum of Understanding with Madinah University Strengthening Institutional Co-operation



Signing of the MoU in the presence of HE Majid Al Qasabi, Saudi Minister of Commerce and Lord Johnson, former UK Trade and Investment Minister

On 15 May, the Centre and the Islamic University of Madinah Munawwarah formalized a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen co-operation between

the two institutions. This partnership seeks to leverage the complementary strengths of both institutions by facilitating the exchange of academic expertise, promoting joint research and peer-reviewed publications, supporting the preservation and digitization of classical materials, and encouraging the exchange of information resources and the development of mutually beneficial training programmes. The signing of this MoU reaffirms the Centre's commitment to fostering intellectual and cultural enrichment through strategic partnerships. Efforts are underway to explore opportunities arising from the MoU and discuss strategies for realizing its potential.

Collaboration with Boston University Conference on Faith and Climate Change

The Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies, UK and the Pardee Center for the Longer-Range Future at Boston University, USA are collaborating in a future-oriented and interdisciplinary research initiative to explore the moral dimensions of climate action and the possible role of faith-based values in encouraging positive environmental and climate behaviours, particularly in the context of Islam and Muslim societies. This partnership organized two Roundtables (Oxford, 27–28 May; and Boston, 19–20 September 2024) that discussed key questions and explored the dimensions of a



The Participants of the Boston Roundtable

possible research agenda. Each Roundtable had about 15 invitees who took part in interactive sessions and included a panel discussion open to the public.

Under-Secretary-General of UN lectures on Human Civilization and the Quest for Peace



HE Miguel Ángel Moratinos

Mr Moratinos' lecture reflected on the circumstances that led to the establishment of UNAOC in 2005, when it was founded upon

HE Mr Miguel Ángel Moratinos, High Representative of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, delivered a lecture at the Centre, focusing on challenges in international relations.

values of mutual respect and a commitment to establishing dialogue between nations. HE Mr Moratinos emphasized that nations have a collective responsibility to facilitate peace on a global scale. He outlined the importance of changing mindsets and understanding the root causes of international tensions in order to resolve current conflicts and prevent future ones. The lecture drew attention to the differences between the pursuit of security and the pursuit of peace, emphasizing that to achieve the former, humanity must strive for the latter. The speaker ended on a hopeful note by looking forward to continuing his dialogue with the Centre.

Annual Trustees Meetings Preparing for the Future



Members of the Board of Trustees

In September the Trustees gathered for their annual review of Centre activities and future directions. The Board of Trustees welcomed three new (co-opted) members: HRH Prince Faisal Bin Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud (Advisor to the King of Saudi Arabia), HE Dr

Raja Al-Gurg (Chairperson of the Easa Saleh Al Gurg Group, UAE), and HE Sheikh Dr Meshaal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

The Board's sub-committees held meetings to develop priorities for the Centre's future endeavours and on-going projects, including exhibitions, development initiatives, fellowships, and activities that will help the centre to meet its mandate. Following the meeting of the Trustees, a meeting of the International Academic Advisory Committee took place at the Centre. The IAAC members discussed future strategy and means of furthering the Centre's academic endeavours and expanding its international links.

Young Muslim Leadership Programme Training Future Leaders

The 18th YMLP brought together an accomplished cohort with career backgrounds spanning the Civil Service, medicine, law, consultancy, business, and beyond.

Participants engaged in seminars led by distinguished speakers, including The Rt Hon Sir Stephen Timms MP, Michael Binyon OBE (Editorial Writer, The Times), Professor Sariya Cheruvallil-Contractor (Coventry University), Alderman of the City of London and Barrister Kawsar Zaman, and The Rt Hon Dominic Grieve KC (Former Attorney General and Conservative MP for Beacons-



Participants of the YMLP

field). Dr Najib Rahman also led a session focused on leadership in the NHS, Dr Asma Mustafa led a session on Muslims in Britain, while Jeffery Beere discussed ethics and value in consultancy.

New Scholars at the Centre Widening Access, Supporting Talent

The Centre continues to host new and returning Scholars, whose studies at the University of Oxford are funded by the Centre. There are currently 20 such Scholars in total. Through this Scholarship scheme, the Centre fosters academic excellence in students from Britain and overseas, who are studying a range of subjects that will benefit the wider societies to which they belong. The current cohort are reading for graduate and undergraduate degrees in a variety of subjects, including public policy, history,

pharmacology, physiology, surgical sciences, chemistry, geography, and law.

A more recent means of expanding the intellectual community is the Centre's category of Exhibitioners (introduced last academic year), many of whom are studying at the University of Oxford, on programmes that are complementary to the Centre's areas of interest. There are currently 11 Exhibitioners in total, many of whom reside at the Centre and all of whom have access to the Centre's academic and social activities.

Visiting Fellows

The Centre welcomed the following Visiting Fellows in Michaelmas 2024:

Dr Idris Bedirhanoglu, MSc (Harran University), PhD (Istanbul Technical University)
Visiting Fellow

Ms Haironesah Domado, BSBA (Mindanao State), MA (Brandeis)
Chevening Visiting Fellow

Dr Imran Hashmi, BCS (UMT), MS, PhD (KTH-Royal Instit. Technology, Stockholm)
Visiting Fellow

Dr Hayati Ismail, B.Ed. TESL, M.Ed. TESL (UPM), PhD (Warwick)
Visiting Fellow

Dr Alisher Jumagulov, BA (Tashkent Islamic University), M.Ed., PhD (Tashkent State University of Law)
Chevening Visiting Fellow

Dr Murat Kayalik, BA, MA (Ankara University), PhD (Ankara Yildirim Beyazit)
Gül Chevening Visiting Fellow

Dr Ziyaad Mahomed, MBA (MACOSA), BBA (Anglia Ruskin), PhD (INCEIF)
SC-OCIS Visiting Fellow

Dr Agus Salim, BA, MA (UIN), Magister (Monash), PhD (Melbourne)
Chevening Visiting Fellow

Dr Ahmad Labeeb Tajudeen, PhD (Brunei Darussalam)
Visiting Fellow

Dr Hakim Yasar, MA (Dokuz Eylul), PhD (Heythrop College, University of London)
Abdul Aziz al-Mutawa
Visiting Fellow

New Fellow in Islamic Law

Dr Mohammed Ali Allehbi is a new Research Fellow at OCIS. He was a PIL-LC Research Fellow at the Program in Islamic Law at Harvard Law School and the Library of Congress for 2023-2024 academic year. He specializes in law and governance in the Islamic Near East and the Mediterranean during late antiquity and the Middle Ages.



Dr Mohammed Ali Allehbi

Visiting Fellowship Programme Strengthening Global Academic Links

The Centre will host a total of 42 new and returning Visiting Fellows this academic year, including Visiting Research Fellows, and Academic Visitors, for periods of 3 to 9 months. These Visiting Fellows and Academic Visitors come from a wide range of countries, including China, France, the Gulf, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Turkey, the UK, the US, and Uzbekistan.

The capacious range of research projects pursued by Visiting Fellows spans the humanities, social sciences, law, international relations, science and technology, and public policy. Their association with the Centre facilitates a strengthening of global academic links, enabling the Centre to continue fostering a diverse research community.

During their time in Oxford, this group of international researchers takes an active part in the intellectual life of the Centre by attending weekly term-time seminars and lectures, as



Exhibition of manuscripts at the Centre's library

well as forging connections more informally in Hall and in the Common Rooms. The vibrant 2024-25 cohort of Visiting Fellows continues the Centre's long-standing commitment to facilitating intellectual exchange and international interdisciplinary connections.

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