

# Politics and the Religions in the UK: Interfaith Dialogue, Deliberative Democracy, and Government

WOOLF  
INSTITUTE  
studying  
relations  
between  
Jews  
Christians  
& Muslims

VON HÜGEL  
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**Event:** Public Lecture with Discussion

**Date:** 30 April 2015

**Time:** 5.00pm

**Venue:** Garden Room, St Edmund's College, Cambridge

**Main Speaker: Professor Paul Hedges**  
(Nanyang Technological University, Singapore)

Introduction: **Dr Edward Kessler** (Woolf Institute)

Respondent: **Professor John Loughlin** (Von Hügel Institute)

Chair: **Dr Gorazd Andrejč** (Woolf Institute)

Given our increasingly multi-religious society, governments have over recent decades, but especially since 9/11 and 7/7, sought to find ways to bring religions into the arena of public life as stakeholders who can contribute to social harmony. This reflects the growing international prominence of religion in the political sphere at a global level, although often opposed by certain secularists who believe that religion should be relegated to the private sphere alone. This lecture will address the way that different governments have employed interfaith dialogue as a tool to promote harmony, but focusing upon the efforts of New Labour who, it is argued, have most directly tried to address the relationship between government, interfaith dialogue, and social cohesion. The question of how this may relate to a deliberative democracy will be addressed as part of the discussion around the nature of faith and interfaith within the public sphere.

*This event is free and open to all*

Further information: [www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/events](http://www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/events)

Contact: Dr Gorazd Andrejč [ga344@cam.ac.uk](mailto:ga344@cam.ac.uk)