

# FORGIVENESS AND THE FUTURE: LESSONS FROM NORTHERN IRELAND, BOSNIA AND SOUTH SUDAN

22 February 2023

1.30pm - 5.00pm

Room 01/005, 22 University Square,

Queen's University Belfast



QUEEN'S  
UNIVERSITY  
BELFAST

THE SENATOR  
GEORGE J. MITCHELL  
INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL PEACE,  
SECURITY AND JUSTICE



WOOLF  
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Almost twenty-five years have passed since the signing of the Good Friday Agreement but the legacy of the past lives on in Northern Ireland.

This event will bring together academics, faith leaders, and practitioners to explore the role of forgiveness in dealing with the past.

Researchers on the Forgiveness and Future-building project, from the Woolf Institute, University of Cambridge, will present their findings from a two-year project that investigates the role of forgiveness in post-conflict societies from both a psychological and computational perspective.

The project involves research in Northern Ireland, Bosnia and South Sudan and analyses differences in how people intuitively reason about forgiveness in the aftermath of conflict. [Read more here](#).

Using AI technology, the team has also put together a computational model that builds on previous work on modelling intergroup conflict in Northern Ireland.

This event will be recorded and will be available on the Mitchell Institute website afterwards.

This event is hosted by the [Senator George J. Mitchell Institute for Global Peace, Security and Justice](#) and is delivered in partnership with the [Woolf Institute, University of Cambridge](#).

## AGENDA

### Session 1: Forgiveness and Conflict

**Time:** 1.30pm - 3.00pm

**Session Chair:** Prof Richard English, Director, Mitchell Institute

- Welcome and introduction, [Prof Richard English](#)
- The psychology of forgiveness and future-building, [Dr Katherine O'Lone](#)
- Modelling forgiveness and stability, [Dr Justin E. Lane](#) and [Prof F. LeRon Shults](#)
- QUB respondent, [Prof John Brewer](#)
- Q&A

**Break:** 3.00pm - 3.30pm (tea/coffee)

### Session 2: Understanding conflict: from the global to the local

**Time:** 3.30pm - 5.00pm

**Session Chair:** Prof Fiona Magowan, Mitchell Institute Theme Lead (Religion and Peace Building)

- Welcome and introduction, [Prof Fiona Magowan](#)
- Studying active conflict and paramilitaries, [Pavol Kosnač](#)
- Conflict and beyond- a local perspective, [Rev Dr Gary Mason](#)
- QUB respondent, [Prof Gladys Ganiel](#)
- Q&A
- Final thoughts, Prof Gladys Ganiel

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