

Astor Lectureship Report – Professor Adeeb Khalid

Professor Adeeb Khalid of Carleton College visited Oxford for his Astor Lectureship between the 21st and the 29th May 2025, hosted by the History Faculty's Centre for Global History. The main event of his visit was a public lecture entitled 'Radical Muslims: Anticolonial Solidarities across Muslim Eurasia, 1914–1925' held on Friday 23rd May at 4pm in the Nazrin Shah auditorium at Worcester College. The event was advertised to all students in History, Asian & Middle-Eastern Studies, Anthropology and Theology, as well as on specialised mailing-lists for Central Asian Studies, the nationwide mailing-list of the British Association for Slavonic and East European Studies, and to the Oxford Branch of the Historical Association. It attracted a large audience of seventy people from across these groups, including several who had come to Oxford specially to hear Professor Khalid speak. He was introduced by Professor Peter Frankopan, who hosted us at Worcester, and spoke for about an hour. The Q & A was lively and we did not wrap up until 6pm, after which there was a reception outside the auditorium which allowed students and other audience members to talk at greater length with the speaker.

Professor Khalid's second event was a graduate student workshop, held from 10.00 – 12.00 on Monday 26th May in the Rees-Davies Room at the History Faculty. This was for Oxford students and Faculty only, and thirty-five registered for the event in advance (close to the room's capacity of forty people) of whom thirty attended on the day. We were discussing Professor Khalid's recent book *Central Asia. A New History from the Imperial Conquests to the Present* (Princeton University Press, 2021). After a brief introduction we opened up the floor to questions from the students, which were lively and penetrating. We now have a significant group of graduate students working on topics related to Central Asia, and they were very appreciative of being able to meet and interrogate one of the leading figures in the field in this way. Professor Khalid also said he enjoyed himself greatly.

The final event of Professor Khalid's visit was a research seminar on 'Rescuing the Basmachi from ideology', held at 5pm on Tuesday 27th May in Lecture Room 4 at New College, held as part of the term-long seminar series of the Oxford Society for the Caucasus and Central Asia. This was also extremely well-attended (30+ people) and provoked a stimulating discussion and Q & A.

Overall, I believe Professor Khalid's visit was a great success – all his events were well-attended and sparked an enthusiastic reaction from our students and other Faculty members from across History and other departments.