

Oxford Islamic centre accused of firing gay academic 'because they feared angering Saudi backers'

From the [several charges of rape.](#)

Dr Fogg, an expert in the history of Islam in south east Asia, claims he was dismissed from his post at the Centre in 2018 after spending five years there as a research fellow.

"I believe that this dismissal was not only unfair but also discriminatory," he told *The Telegraph*. "As a homosexually-partnered, bisexual man, I do not comply with the preferences of the Centre's major funders, including the states of Saudi Arabia, Brunei, Kuwait, Malaysia, and the United Arab Emirates. The Centre's leadership made several references to my age, which I believe to have been coded language equivalent to calling me a 'confirmed bachelor'."

The Centre has "culture of antagonism and intolerance towards non-heterosexual lifestyles", he alleges in his witness statement. The statement says that the Centre's donors include states where homosexuality is punishable under law and in some cases by capital punishment.

The Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies said that it completely rejects Dr Fogg's "wild allegations of discrimination, which have no basis in fact".

"... in 2018 after an extensive process of review of his work, his request for a yet further period at the Centre was declined," they explained. "It was only after, and it would seem as a result of, the Centre turning down his request for a second extension that he has made this allegation of indirect

sexual orientation discrimination.” They added that his complaint of age discrimination investigated by the Centre when he first appealed their decision and thrown out.

A spokesman for the Centre said that Dr Fogg “has been treated very well” adding that they will robustly defend his claims in the employment tribunal.