

# MSc in Modern South Asian Studies

## Course Handbook 2021/2022

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The information in this Handbook is correct at date of publishing but may be subject to change.

Version: 04/10/2021 v1.0

# FOREWORD

## Statement of Coverage

This Handbook applies to students starting the MSc in Modern South Asian Studies in Michaelmas term 2021. The information in this Handbook may be different for students starting in other years.

## Disclaimer

The Examination Regulations relating to this course are available at <https://examregs.admin.ox.ac.uk/Regulation?code=mosbcimodesoutasiastud&srchYear=2021&srcTerm=1&year=2021&term=1>. If there is a conflict between information in this handbook and the Examination Regulations then you should follow the Examination Regulations. If you have any concerns please contact Dr Paul Irwin Crookes, the Director of Graduate Studies for the Oxford School of Global and Area Studies (OSGA) ([paul.irwincrookes@area.ox.ac.uk](mailto:paul.irwincrookes@area.ox.ac.uk)) or the Course Administrator, Stephen Minay ([stephen.minay@area.ox.ac.uk](mailto:stephen.minay@area.ox.ac.uk)).

The information in this Handbook is accurate as at 4 October 2021. However it may be necessary for changes to be made in certain circumstances, as explained at <https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/courses/changes-to-courses>. If such changes are made the department will publish a new version of this handbook together with a list of the changes and students will be informed.

## Statement on behaviour

Our School and the University of Oxford are committed to fostering an inclusive culture which promotes equality and values diversity. We aim to maintain a working, learning and social environment in which the rights and dignity of everyone are respected. All staff, students, workers and visitors to the School are therefore expected to behave in a respectful and appropriate manner.

More information, including the full University Policy, can be found here <http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/harassment>.

## Version

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## WELCOME

This handbook is intended to help guide you through your course and to provide the information that it is anticipated you will need to know during your time at Oxford. You will also find lots of useful information of relevance to your course from the following sources:

- the School's website <https://www.area-studies.ox.ac.uk/>, which includes information about news and events;
- our Canvas sites <https://login.canvas.ox.ac.uk> which provide information on lectures, classes, reading lists as well as guidance concerning supervision, undertaking fieldwork and the ethical review process for any research projects involving human participants or personal data;
- the Oxford Students Website <http://www.ox.ac.uk/students>;
- your individual college handbook;
- the University's Examination Regulations <https://examregs.admin.ox.ac.uk/Regulation?code=mobscimodesoutasiastud&srchYear=2021&srchTerm=1&year=2021&term=1>, which provide the course regulations; and
- the programme's examination conventions provided on our Canvas site [https://canvas.ox.ac.uk/courses/125653/pages/examination-conventions?module\\_item\\_id=1357358](https://canvas.ox.ac.uk/courses/125653/pages/examination-conventions?module_item_id=1357358) which set out the procedures required by the examinations you will take and cover how written papers will be set, how your work will be assessed and how an overall year outcome will be determined.

If you need any further help or require more information on any aspect of the handbook, please contact your Course Administrator, Stephen Minay ([stephen.minay@area.ox.ac.uk](mailto:stephen.minay@area.ox.ac.uk)).

## Welcome from the School of Global and Area Studies and the Faculty of Oriental Studies

On behalf of the Oxford School of Global and Area Studies (OSGA) and the Faculty of Oriental Studies, we would like to welcome you all warmly to Oxford. OSGA is part of the Social Sciences Division and has a total staff, including academics, researchers, and administrators, of about 70 people based at faculty locations in and around Bevington Road, Winchester Road and Canterbury Road on the northern side of the University precinct. The Faculty of Oriental Studies is part of the Humanities Division, and has a total staff of about 120, based in the Faculty building in Pusey Lane, and in centres elsewhere in central Oxford, many of them shared with OSGA staff. Together, we are the largest community of scholars and teachers in the UK dedicated to the study of key regions across the world.

Our research and teaching activities encompass Africa, China, Japan, Latin America, the Middle East, Russia and Eastern Europe, and South Asia, scaling in reach from the local and national to the regional and global. Whilst our scholarship certainly engages with important theoretical debates and major concepts from globalisation and liberalisation to Orientalism and textual studies, it is always informed by a deep understanding of the relevant country, region and language concerned, helping us to analyse the social, political and historical drivers of a particular region. This allows better explain both the historical context and the contemporary factors shaping the world today.

We are delighted that you have accepted our invitation to join in these exciting debates. Although the current Covid-19 pandemic has been very challenging for the University, OSGA and Oriental Studies have done their best to prepare for a stimulating academic year in which we will continue to maintain our high standards of teaching, research and collaborative inquiry. We are grateful for your vote of confidence in continuing this shared intellectual journey, and we commit to work with you to adapt to evolving circumstances. We wish you a very enjoyable time here as members of OSGA and Oriental Studies.

### **Professor Christopher Gerry**

Head of the Oxford School of  
Global and Area Studies

### **Professor David Rechter**

Chair of the Faculty Board  
Oriental Studies

## Welcome from the Course Director of the MSc in Modern South Asian Studies

A warm welcome to our MSc in Modern South Asian Studies, and to the Oxford School of Global and Area Studies (OSGA) and the Faculty of Oriental Studies who have partnered to jointly offer this programme. At OSGA, a number of developing countries as well as major emerging powers, such as India and China, are studied both in their own right, and also from a comparative and interdisciplinary social science perspective. The Faculty of Oriental Studies shares this approach, as well as bringing its own distinctive expertise in language, literature and history.

The MSc is an intellectually ambitious degree course. It offers you the opportunity to specialise in the period, state focus and disciplinary approach of your choice within the broader South Asia region. At the same time, all students on the course are encouraged to deepen their understanding through study of the region's shared histories, cultures, developmental challenges

and interwoven political relationships as independent states. To achieve these aims, you will take an intensive combination of compulsory and optional modules. You will attend the weekly Core Course lectures, which offer a broad thematic survey of South Asia, and provide opportunities for discussion. You will also follow a course in Research Methods taught through lectures and classes, some of which are run by OSGA and others by Oriental Studies. You will also be asked to choose two Option papers from a list offering a wealth of choices, from history, language and literature, to modern politics, society, economics and international relations. Over the course of the year, you will also work on developing your 12,000-word thesis, on a subject of your choice. The Option papers and the thesis enable you, if you wish, to specialise in various academic perspectives of historical South Asia or contemporary India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal or Bhutan. Finally, you will attend the weekly South Asia research seminar, at which doctoral students, post-docs, younger and more senior scholars will share their latest research.

The MSc is embedded in and benefits from Oxford's dynamic research culture in the different fields and regions of South Asia. The Contemporary South Asian Studies Programme (CSASP) at OSGA hosts several visiting researchers every year, collaborates with various overseas centres and institutions and is home to major research projects on South Asia involving international networks of scholars. The Faculty of Oriental Studies houses a vibrant community of scholars working on early modern history and literature. Staff from the Faculties of Anthropology, Development Studies, Politics and International Relations, Theology and Art History also teach on the course and are available to help you develop your ideas for your thesis. Wolfson, St Antony's and Somerville Colleges have a particular focus in South Asia and are home to active communities of researchers in different fields and disciplines, and organise conferences and international workshops throughout the year.

Information about academic visitors, seminars, workshops and conferences will be separately available during the course of the year, along with details of social occasions such as the OSGA student party, documentary and film nights and other special events! Many of the events will be online in Michaelmas term but we hope to make them more and more in person as the pandemic recedes over the year.

We wish you a very stimulating and rewarding time at Oxford in spite of all the difficulties caused by the pandemic in these exceptional years, and hope that you will be able to make the most of what we have to offer.

**Professor Imre Bangha**

Associate Professor of Hindi  
Faculty of Oriental Studies

## Useful contacts for the Oxford School of Global and Area Studies (OSGA)

Please be aware that many of these people will be working from home in during the pandemic and the best way to contact them in the first instance will be via email. Should you have any difficulty in contacting any of them, please contact your course administrator, Stephen Minay, for advice.

Head of the School of Global and Area Studies (OSGA)		
Professor Christopher Gerry	(2) 12397	<a href="mailto:christopher.gerry@area.ox.ac.uk">christopher.gerry@area.ox.ac.uk</a>
OSGA Head of Administration and Finance		
Erin Gordon	(2) 84981	<a href="mailto:administrator@area.ox.ac.uk">administrator@area.ox.ac.uk</a>
OSGA Director of Graduate Studies (DGS)		
Dr Paul Irwin Crookes	(6) 13848	<a href="mailto:paul.irwincrookes@area.ox.ac.uk">paul.irwincrookes@area.ox.ac.uk</a>
OSGA Academic Co-ordinator		
Sarah Dewick	(2) 84995	<a href="mailto:sarah.dewick@area.ox.ac.uk">sarah.dewick@area.ox.ac.uk</a>
OSGA Disability Co-ordinators		
Dr Paul Irwin Crookes	(6) 13848	<a href="mailto:paul.irwincrookes@area.ox.ac.uk">paul.irwincrookes@area.ox.ac.uk</a>
Sarah Dewick (OSGA Academic Co-ordinator)	(2) 84995	<a href="mailto:sarah.dewick@area.ox.ac.uk">sarah.dewick@area.ox.ac.uk</a>
OSGA Ethical approval, Travel Risk Assessment and Travel Insurance Contact		
Francesca Tucci	(2) 84989	For queries about Ethical approval of your research (CUREC application) please contact: <a href="mailto:curec@area.ox.ac.uk">curec@area.ox.ac.uk</a> For queries about Travel Risk Assessment and Travel Insurance please contact: <a href="mailto:travel@area.ox.ac.uk">travel@area.ox.ac.uk</a>
OSGA Harassment Advisors		
Ms Alexia Lewis (Russian and East European Studies Administrator)	(2) 74694	<a href="mailto:alexia.lewis@area.ox.ac.uk">alexia.lewis@area.ox.ac.uk</a>
Miss Jane Baker (Japanese Studies Administrator)	(2) 74570	<a href="mailto:jane.baker@nissan.ox.ac.uk">jane.baker@nissan.ox.ac.uk</a>

## Contacts for the Contemporary South Asian Studies Programme (CSASP) and Modern South Asian Studies courses

Director of CSASP		
Prof. Nayanika Mathur	(6) 12852	<a href="mailto:nayanika.mathur@area.ox.ac.uk">nayanika.mathur@area.ox.ac.uk</a>
Course Director		
Prof. Imre Bangha	(2) 78219	<a href="mailto:imre.bangha@orinst.ox.ac.uk">imre.bangha@orinst.ox.ac.uk</a>
Programme Administrator		
Mr Stephen Minay	(2) 84852	<a href="mailto:stephen.minay@area.ox.ac.uk">stephen.minay@area.ox.ac.uk</a>
Other contacts		
IT Services	(2) 73200	<a href="https://www.it.ox.ac.uk/">https://www.it.ox.ac.uk/</a>
Ms Emma Mathieson, subject librarian	(2) 77206 (please try email first)	<a href="mailto:emma.mathieson@bodleian.ox.ac.uk">emma.mathieson@bodleian.ox.ac.uk</a>
Social Sciences Library	(2) 71093	<a href="http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/ssl/contact">http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/ssl/contact</a>



## Teaching Staff

Your Course Director and the main port of call for academic matters this year is Professor Imre Bangha. Dr Uma Pradhan will serve as the Chair of the Board of Examiners in Michaelmas term and Dr Anwesha Roy will serve as the Chair of the Board of Examiners in Hilary and Trinity terms.

Immediately below, you will find a list of the teaching staff for the degree, who together comprise the Modern South Asian Studies Teaching Committee. They are responsible for delivering the Core Course (see p. 24 and Canvas for more information), the Option papers (see pp. 26-40), and are available for the supervision of theses.

Dr Uma Pradhan will act as our South Asia 'base' for *Research Methods in Area Studies*, along with Dr Thiruni Kelegama who will be convenor for the quantitative methods sub-component.

Professor Imre Bangha and Dr Anwesha Roy are jointly responsible for the module dealing with *Qualitative Methods in Humanities* which includes both historical methods and methods relating to language and literature.

In addition, there is a larger group of academics across the University who research and teach on South Asia and who may also be available for thesis supervision. We are grateful to all of them for their enthusiastic support of the degree.

Please note that the course is jointly offered and overseen by staff from OSGA and the Faculty of Oriental Studies. For administrative purposes, including admissions, on-course questions and examinations, the course is hosted in OSGA.

<b>Professor Imre Bangha</b>	Associate Professor of Hindi; Course Director, MSc Modern South Asian Studies
<i>College:</i>	Wolfson
<i>Office Location:</i>	Room 206, Faculty of Oriental Studies, Pusey Lane
<i>Options Taught (and term):</i>	<b>Elementary Hindi</b> (MT & HT); <b>Literary Hindi</b> (all terms); <b>Urdu Prose Texts</b> (all terms); <b>Classical Hindi</b> (previously known as Brajbhasha and Old Hindi Texts) (all terms); <b>Bengali</b> (if run) (all terms).
<i>Research Interests:</i>	Early Hindi poetry, Hindi and Urdu vernacularisation, mixed-language poetry, the emergence of individualism in Brajbhasha literature, Kabīr, Tulsīdās, Hindi prosody and text editing, the global reception of Rabindranath Tagore.
<b>Professor David Gellner</b>	Professor of Social Anthropology
<i>College:</i>	All Souls
<i>Office Location:</i>	School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography, 51/53 Banbury Road
<i>Option Taught (and term):</i>	<b>Anthropology of South Asia</b> (HT); <b>Anthropology of Buddhism</b> (HT)
<i>Research Interests:</i>	Politics, ethnicity/caste, religion, democracy, borderlands, Dalits -- all in South Asia and the South Asian diaspora.
<b>Dr Kira Huju</b>	Departmental Lecturer in International Relations
<i>College:</i>	St Antony's College
<i>Office Location:</i>	Room 164 (first floor), Manor Road Building, DPIR
<i>Option Taught (and term):</i>	N/A
<i>Research Interests:</i>	Indian foreign policy, international order, caste and class in International Relations, decolonial approaches to cosmopolitanism and cosmopolitans

<b>Professor Justin Jones</b>	Associate Professor in Study of Religion
<i>College:</i>	Pembroke
<i>Office Location:</i>	Faculty of Theology and Religion, Gibson Building, Radcliffe Observatory Quarter
<i>Option Taught (and term):</i>	N/A
<i>Research Interests:</i>	Islam in the South Asia from c.1850 up to the present, with particular focus on social history, legal history, questions of religious authority, Muslim community organization and politics. Current research on Muslim family laws and the living realities of shari'a practice in modern India. Previous published research includes work on Shi'i Islam in South Asia, including religious renewal, conceptions of piety and martyrdom, and Shi'i-Sunni relations. Also, Islam and the urban public sphere; domestic comportment and the regulation of the Muslim family; Muslim women and women's rights.
<b>Dr Thiruni Kelegama</b>	Departmental Lecturer in Modern South Asian Studies
<i>College:</i>	N/A
<i>Office Location:</i>	Second Floor, OSGA, 12 Bevington Road
<i>Option Taught (and term):</i>	<b>Economic Development of South Asia 1947 to the present (MT)</b>
<i>Research Interests:</i>	Development; violence; conflict; the state; bureaucracy; institutions; frontiers; Sri Lanka; South Asia.
<b>Dr Yasser Kureshi</b>	John and Daria Barry Postdoctoral Fellow in Constitutional Law or Constitutional Theory
<i>College:</i>	Trinity
<i>Office Location:</i>	Trinity College
<i>Option Taught (and term):</i>	<b>Themes in the History of Pakistan (HT)</b>
<i>Research Interests:</i>	Judicial Politics, Constitutional Theory and Law, Comparative Authoritarianism, Civil-Military Relations, South Asian Politics
<b>Professor Mallica Kumbera Landrus</b>	Keeper of Eastern Art, Associate Professor of Indian Art, Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology
<i>College:</i>	St Cross
<i>Office Location:</i>	Ashmolean Museum, Beaumont Street
<i>Option Taught (and term):</i>	<b>Trade and Exchange in South Asia: Transcultural Objects, Relations and Identities (HT)</b>
<i>Research Interests:</i>	The history of art and visual culture of India, particularly with regard to the intersection of art, architecture, religion, politics, economics, geographic, and social life. Artistic and cultural exchanges between Asia and Europe, with a focus on trade routes and their associations with cultural and ancestral roots. The reception of cross-cultural ideas and the production of transcultural objects through this process of exchange.

<b>Professor Nayanika Mathur</b>	Associate Professor of Anthropology of South Asia
<i>College:</i>	Wolfson
<i>Office Location:</i>	Basement, OSGA, 11 Bevington Road
<i>Option Taught (and term):</i>	N/A
<i>Research Interests:</i>	Anthropology of politics, economics, and development; bureaucracy and the state; the digital state and techno-utopianism; cultures of institutions; documents and materiality; law; wildlife conservationism and environmentalism; human-animal relations and conflict; multispecies ethnography; the Anthropocene; capitalism, liberalization, and neoliberalism; technologies of statecraft; ethnographic methods and anthropological theory; the Himalaya and South Asia.
<b>Professor Polly O’Hanlon</b>	Emeritus Professor in Indian History and Culture
<i>College:</i>	St Cross
<i>Office Location:</i>	N/A
<i>Options Taught (and term):</i>	<b>Societies and Economies in India c. 1600 to 1800 (MT)</b>
<i>Research Interests:</i>	Social and intellectual history of India; histories of caste in India; histories of empire, gender and the body; social and religious history of Maharashtra.
<b>Dr Uma Pradhan</b>	Leverhulme Early Career Research Fellow
<i>College:</i>	Wolfson
<i>Office Location:</i>	Basement, OSGA, 11 Bevington Road
<i>Option Taught (and term):</i>	<b>Education, State and Society in South Asia (MT)</b>
<i>Research Interests:</i>	The power-laden dimensions of education and the interconnection between state, society, and schooling.
<b>Dr Anwasha Roy</b>	Departmental Lecturer in Indian History and Culture
<i>College:</i>	St Cross
<i>Office Location:</i>	Room 114, Faculty of Oriental Studies Pusey Lane
<i>Option Taught (and term):</i>	<b>Gender and Society in India c.1800 to the present (MT); Social History of Colonial India 1800-1947 (HT)</b>
<i>Research Interests:</i>	Social and political histories of south Asia with particular focus on India, communalism, histories of violence.
<b>Professor Kate Sullivan de Estrada</b>	Associate Professor in the International Relations of South Asia
<i>College:</i>	St Antony’s
<i>Office Location:</i>	Third Floor, OSGA, 12 Bevington Road
<i>Option Taught (and term):</i>	<b>The International Relations of South Asia (HT)</b>
<i>Research Interests:</i>	The International Relations of South Asia (especially India), India’s rise in world politics, International Relations theory, Indian international political thought, nuclear politics, global governance, Indian Ocean security.

# Important Dates

## Michaelmas Term 2021

Noughth week (w/c Monday 4 October 2021)	Induction
Friday, noughth week (8 October 2021)	<p>12.00 noon deadline to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submit 'MT Option Form' (online), indicating chosen Option for MT and/or Advanced Language Option</li> <li>If planning to conduct fieldwork during the Christmas vacation, have had a meeting with general supervisor for advice regarding your plans so you can submit first draft of necessary documents for review by Friday of week 1 (see below).</li> </ul> <p>Midnight deadline to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have completed the online 'Avoiding Plagiarism Test' (see pp. 66-67) and submitted the certificate to the Course Administrator by email.</li> </ul>
Monday, week 1 (11 October 2021)	<p>9.00am deadline to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have completed reading Course Handbook, Research Methods Handbook and submit student declaration (online)</li> </ul> <p>2.00pm Core Course Essay titles issued on Canvas and Inspera opens for submissions</p>
Friday, week 1 (15 October 2021)	<p>12.00 noon deadline to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If conducting fieldwork during the Christmas vacation, submit <b>first draft</b> of CUREC form, activity/travel and fieldwork risk assessment and COVID-19 risk assessment to general supervisor for final edits.</li> </ul>
Friday, week 2 (22 October 2021)	<p>12.00 noon internal MSAS/CSASP deadline to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submit <b>final versions</b> of documents for fieldwork to general supervisor (CUREC application, Activity/ Travel and Fieldwork Risk Assessment, COVID-19 Risk Assessment), if conducting fieldwork during the Christmas vacation. For details please see 'Fieldwork preparation step by step (including ethical review)' on pp. 52-57. (If applying for CUREC 2 please contact <a href="mailto:curec@area.ox.ac.uk">curec@area.ox.ac.uk</a>)</li> </ul>
Friday, week 3 (29 October 2021)	<p>12.00 noon <b>OSGA deadline</b> to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure documents for fieldwork (as above) have been endorsed and submitted to Francesca Tucci, if conducting fieldwork during the Christmas vacation.</li> </ul>
Monday, week 7 (22 November 2021)	GSR reporting window opens for students (via Student Self Service). (See pp. 74-75 for further information on reports)
Monday, Week 8 (29 November 2021)	Qualitative Methods take-home test issued on Canvas by 12.00 noon and Inspera opens for submissions
Thursday, week 8 (2 December 2021)	<p>12.00 noon deadline to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submit 'HT Option Form', (online) indicating chosen Option for HT and chosen Research Methods module</li> </ul> <p>Midnight deadline to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Register for your chosen exams via Student Self-Service (two options and Research Methods module for HT) <b>NB If you miss this deadline, you will be charged a late entry fee.</b></li> </ul>
Monday, week 9 (6 December 2021)	<p>12.00 noon deadline to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submit Qualitative take-home test online via Inspera.</li> </ul>
Friday, week 9 (10 December 2021)	<p>12.00 noon deadline to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submit GSR report for MT (via Student Self Service)</li> </ul>

## Hilary Term 2022

Friday, week -1 (7 January 2022)	12.00 noon deadline to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submit 'Thesis Title Form', (online) to the Course Administrator (for approval by Course Director on Monday of noughth week)</li> </ul>
Friday, noughth week (14 January 2022)	12.00 noon deadline to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If planning to conduct fieldwork during the Easter vacation, have had a meeting with thesis supervisor for advice regarding your plans so you can submit first draft of necessary documents for review by Friday of week 1 (see below).</li> </ul>
Friday, week 1 (21 January 2022)	12.00 noon deadline to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If conducting fieldwork during the Easter vacation, submit <b>first draft</b> of CUREC form, activity/travel and fieldwork risk assessment and COVID-19 risk assessment to thesis supervisor for final edits</li> </ul>
Friday, week 2 (28 January 2022)	12.00 noon internal MSAS/CSASP deadline to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submit <b>final versions</b> of documents for fieldwork to thesis supervisor (CUREC application, Activity/ Travel and Fieldwork Risk Assessment, COVID-19 Risk Assessment), if conducting fieldwork during the Easter vacation. For details please see 'Fieldwork preparation step by step (including ethical review)' on pp. 52-57. (If applying for CUREC 2 please contact <a href="mailto:curec@area.ox.ac.uk">curec@area.ox.ac.uk</a>)</li> </ul>
Friday, week 3 (4 February 2022)	12.00 noon <b>OSGA deadline</b> to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure documents for fieldwork (as above) have been endorsed and submitted to Francesca Tucci, if conducting fieldwork during the Easter vacation.</li> </ul>
Monday, week 4 (7 February 2022)	Research Methods in Humanities 'Qualitative Methods in Literature, Language and History' paper issued on Canvas and Inspera opens for submissions.
Week 5 (w/c 14 February 2022) Week 6 (w/c 21 February 2022) Week 7 (w/c 28 February 2022) Week 8 (w/c 7 March 2022)	You will present your Research Proposal to a group of peers and academics (including your thesis supervisor) and answer questions on it from the floor. Following the presentation you will have a meeting with your thesis supervisor during which he/she will give feedback on the presentation and proposal. You should take notes during this meeting as no written feedback is provided by the supervisor.
Monday, week 7 (28 February 2022)	GSR reporting window opens for students (via Student Self Service). (See pp. 74-75 for further information on reports)
Monday, week 8 (7 March 2022)	'Quantitative Methods take-home test' issued on Canvas by 12.00 noon and inspera opens for submissions.
Monday, week 9 (14 March 2022)	12.00 noon deadline to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submit Qualitative Methods in Literature, Language and History essay OR Quantitative take-home test online via Inspera.</li> </ul>
Friday, week 9 (18 March 2022)	12.00 noon deadline to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submit GSR report for MT (via Student Self Service)</li> </ul>

## Trinity Term 2022

Monday, week 1 (25 April 2022)	12.00 noon deadline to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submit Core Course Essay online via Inspira</li> </ul>
Friday, week 5 (27 May 2022)	12.00 noon deadline to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submit draft thesis materials to thesis supervisor by email. These should include as a minimum: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) chapter plan</li> <li>(ii) summaries of each chapter, including sources to be used for each</li> <li>(iii) a draft of the introduction</li> <li>(iv) a draft of the bibliography</li> <li>(v) at least one full chapter in draft form</li> </ol> </li> </ul>
Monday, week 7 (6 June 2022)	GSR reporting window opens for students (via Student Self Service). (See pp. 74-75 for further information on reports)
Week 8 (w/c 13 June 2022) Week 9 (w/c 20 June 2022) Week 10 (w/c 27 June 2022)	2 x examinations on your two options. NB the general timetable will be published five weeks before the first exam and your personalised exam timetable will be available on Student Self Service or Inspira at least two weeks before your first exam. Most Modern South Asian Studies exams take place in week 9, though some may take place earlier and some may stretch into week 10. Most options will be examined by means of an open-book exam taken online and submitted via Inspira, though language exams will probably take place in a traditional in-person examination format. Exams usually last three hours .
Friday, week 9 (24 June 2022)	12.00 noon deadline to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submit GSR report for MT (via Student Self Service)</li> </ul>
Thursday, week 19 (1 September 2022)	12.00 noon deadline to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submit thesis online via Inspira.</li> </ul>

## University Terms

The three University 'full' terms, called Michaelmas (October-December), Hilary (January-March) and Trinity (April-June) last eight weeks each. The full names of the terms are sometimes abbreviated to MT, HT and TT. But terms simply set the periods during which formal instruction is given by way of lectures, seminars, and tutorials. The University functions throughout the year and you will need to work in the vacation as well as in term time (apart from reasonable breaks).

## Dates of Term 2021/2022

Michaelmas 2020	Sunday 10 October –	Saturday 4 December (autumn)
Hilary Term 2021	Sunday 16 January –	Saturday 12 March (spring)
Trinity Term 2021	Sunday 24 April –	Saturday 18 June (summer)

## Induction Week

There is a compulsory departmental induction at the start of the academic year (noughth week, Michaelmas term – w/c Monday 4 October, the week before the start of your first term). All students are expected to attend (either virtually or in person). During Induction week you will receive information about the course, the Programme, the Oxford School of Global and Area Studies, the Faculty of Oriental Studies and the University. Staff from the MSc in Modern South Asian Studies will lead induction sessions in which you will learn more about the course content, timetables, examinations and facilities. You will learn how to use the University computer systems and the University libraries. You will also have a college induction during this week.

A timetable for induction will have been sent to you by email in advance, but please make sure you are available to start at **9.30am on Monday 4 October 2021**.

Modern South Asian Studies Induction Timetable: Michaelmas term 2021 'noughth week'						
	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	
09:00						09:00
09:30	<b>Induction session 1:</b> Welcome and Intro to MSc/MPhil MSAS and University of Oxford; MT & lang options; health and welfare; <i>(Pavilion Rm, St Ant's)</i> various	<b>Induction session 2: Ethics and research</b> <i>(Pavilion Rm, St Ant's)</i> various			<b>Induction session 3:</b> Getting to know your Handbook; student reps. <i>(Pavilion Rm, St Ant's)</i> various	09:30
10:00			10:00			
10:30			10:30			
11:00			11:00			
11:30			11:30			
12:00						12:00
12:30						12:30
13:00						13:00
13:30						13:30
14:00	<b>"Meet your supervisor" and Advanced Language Option sessions (as individually arranged)</b> general supervisors <i>various locations</i>					14:00
14:30		<b>Canvas induction</b> <i>(Sem Rm A, SSL)</i>		<b>OSGA Research Methods and IT Induction</b> various <i>(NLT, St Ants)</i>		14:30
15:00		<b>Library induction</b> <i>(Sem Rm A, SSL)</i>			15:00	
15:30					15:30	
16:00						
16:30					<b>Persian language meeting</b> JW <i>(Rm 314, OS)</i>	16:30
17:00						17:00
17:30						17:30
18:00						18:00

# Course Content and Structure

## Overview

**Course Title:** Master of Science in Modern South Asia

**FHEQ Level:** 7

**Course Length:** 12 months

## Course Aims

- To provide five kinds of skill
  1. understanding in depth of one or more regions of South Asia;
  2. critical theoretical skills;
  3. skills in research methods;
  4. the capacity to identify and complete a project of research;
  5. transferable knowledge of key societal and developmental challenges and the histories which have shaped them.
- These skills are both an end in themselves and a preparation for doctoral research. The degree will therefore also enhance skills in the critical analysis of academic texts, in academic research and writing, editing, oral presentation of material, and the capacity to participate effectively in expert discussion.
- Students with a particular interest in contemporary South Asia will explore the striking contrasts of its recent history. India for example is the world's largest democracy, with a rapidly growing knowledge and service economy, and capacities as a regional political and military-nuclear power. Yet it also contains the world's numerically largest site of human deprivations, an economy where much the larger part operates out of state control and much of the environment faces physical degradation and energy constraints, where the black economy is essential to democracy and where modernity faces, and is also being constituted through, the politics of cultural identity. Some of these features are also true of Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka, and students of the wider contemporary world in South Asia will be encouraged to explore them through their own combinations of Option papers and choice of thesis subject.
- Students who wish to place a greater emphasis on history and culture in the region will explore its early modern and colonial histories and the interplay between ethnicity, language, class and religious identities that have shaped these histories through into the modern period. Where possible, they will be encouraged to incorporate the study of vernacular language materials and perspectives into their research, as well as a wide range of different types of source material, from popular literature to devotional religion, oral history to visual arts.

- With respect to critical theoretical skills, the course will require students to reflect on how the states and societies of South Asia have come to be understood. These ways of knowing have been shaped by older colonial as well as more recent histories, political interests and institutions, and by the development of the disciplines themselves through which we 'know' the region: politics, international relations, history, anthropology, political economy and religious studies, as well as 'interdisciplinary' perspectives such as that of development studies.
- Research methods appropriate to student interests will be taught. All students will take a course in Qualitative Research Methods, including the politics and ethics of research, library and archival resources, surveys and basic statistics, case studies, oral information and participant observation. Students with an interest in the states and economies of the present day may wish to take the 'Quantitative Methods' component of the Research methods course. Those whose interests are more historical, social, cultural or literary may wish to take the combined 'Qualitative Methods in Humanities' component.
- The teaching team for the degree is composed of staff from OSGA, Oriental Studies, Anthropology, Theology, Development Studies, History, Politics and International Relations, and the Ashmolean Museum. The overall design and staffing of the degree should enable students to achieve the level required by the Quality Assurance Agency for Masters courses, including 'originality in the application of knowledge, and understanding of how the boundaries of knowledge are advanced through research'. The degree aims to enable students to 'deal with complex issues systematically and creatively' so that they can apply this approach both in academic and other employment contexts.

### Intended Learning Outcomes

The projected outcomes of the course must be limited to what can be feasibly achieved within the duration of the course. The course aims:

- to develop an in-depth knowledge and critical understanding of the histories, societies and cultures of South Asia and its constituent countries and a broad expertise in the combinations of intellectual disciplines through which these may be studied;
- to enable students to pursue particular areas of specialisation, through a wide range of optional courses
- to foster skills in research, writing, analysis and interpretation, through a combination of lectures, tutorials, essay-writing and supervision of a thesis on a subject of the student's choice.

## Overall Structure of the Course

Teaching takes place in various sites across the university, mainly in OSGA (11 & 12, Bevington Road), the Faculty of Oriental Studies and St Antony's College. Due to COVID-19 restrictions lectures and classes will have options for students to join online. Please refer to the individual course outlines and timetable for details, and remember to allow enough time to get to your destination and/or log-in.

All students will take the following **five** components:

- 1) A Core Course.** You will take this course through weekly lectures over Michaelmas and Hilary terms. The course will be assessed by one take-home 5,000-word maximum essay. The essay questions will be issued on Monday of week 1 of Michaelmas term and the essay should be submitted by 12 noon on Monday of week 1 of Trinity term. There will be a group tutorial session in week 8 of both Michaelmas and Hilary terms to discuss the questions relating to the previous seven weeks' lectures.
- 2) Research Methods.** You will complete a course in Research Methods, comprising one compulsory element and one elective element.

All students attend the Qualitative course run by OSGA through a series of general (cross-Area) lectures and South Asia specific classes in Michaelmas term. This is examined by a take-home test to be issued by 12.00 noon on Monday of week 8 of Michaelmas term and submitted via Inspira by 12.00 noon on Monday of week 9 of Michaelmas term.

In Hilary term, students have the choice of two modules:

- (i) **Research Methods for Area Studies Quantitative Methods:** delivered through a series of lectures, classes and practical R-Studio classes run by OSGA throughout Hilary term. This module is assessed by a time-limited take-home test in quantitative analysis to be issued by 12.00 noon on Monday of week 8 and submitted via Inspira by 12 noon on Monday of week 9 of Hilary term.
- (ii) **Qualitative Methods in Literature, Language and History:** delivered through a series of five lectures/classes in Hilary term run by the Faculty of Oriental Studies. This module is assessed by a 2,500 word essay on 'Qualitative Methods in Literature, Language and History' to be set by Monday of week 4 of Hilary term and submitted by 12 noon on Monday of week 9 of Hilary term. (Please note that this module replaces the two previously advertised modules 'Qualitative and Historical Methods' and 'Qualitative Methods: Literature and Language')

In addition, towards the end of Hilary term, all students will present their developing thesis topic, which they will have chosen in consultation with their thesis supervisor.

For the purposes of the presentation, students will be grouped according to their fields of interest, and the groups may meet more than once. Each student will have a 15 minute slot to present their thesis topic to their group, which will also include their thesis supervisor, one or more members of the teaching committee and sometimes other interested academics. Your 15-minute presentation will be followed by 10 minutes of discussion and feedback from the group. **You are expected to attend all meetings of your group**, (including those for the MPhil students, which are held in Trinity term) so that all students benefit from questions and feedback from the whole group. Students are also encouraged to attend the meetings of other groups and the sessions will be timetabled so as to maximise the opportunities for this to happen. Following the presentation, you will attend a meeting with your thesis supervisor during which he/she will give feedback on the presentation and research proposal. You should take notes during this meeting as no written feedback will be provided on the presentation.

**3-4) Option papers.** You will take two Option papers from the list given in this Handbook. An Option paper is usually studied over a single term, taught through a combination of lectures and classes, and assessed by an examination at the end of Trinity term. For all non-language options, examinations in 2021-22 will be held in the open-book format via the University's new online exam system, Inspira, in "typed mode". The 'Advanced Language' option is taught through two or more terms of the year and also examined through a three-hour examination at the end of Trinity term. It is expected that language examinations will be held in the traditional in-person format, conditions permitting. Should this not be possible, exams will be held online using Inspira but in a closed-book and remotely invigilated format. Online language exams use "mixed mode" and thus half an hour additional time is allowed for uploading handwritten answers. For each Option paper apart from 'Advanced Language', you will write two essays, each of which will be the subject of an individual or small group tutorial meeting with the Option teacher (sometimes a senior graduate student or postdoc will substitute for the option teacher).

Students should choose one Option from those offered in Michaelmas term and one in Hilary term (unless taking an 'Advanced Language' Option, since language teaching generally runs across two or more terms). Each student should choose their Option for Michaelmas term (including 'Advanced Language' options) by the end of noughth week (Friday 8 October). They must choose their Option for Hilary term by the end of Michaelmas term. Students should study carefully the Option descriptions included in this Handbook and may discuss their Option choices with their supervisor.

**5) Thesis.** Over the course of the year, you will work on your 12,000-word maximum individual thesis. You will choose the subject yourself in consultation with your general supervisor. The title of the thesis must be approved by the Course Director(s) by 12 noon on Monday of noughth week of Hilary term. (Any late change to your thesis topic or title

must be agreed by your thesis supervisor and the Course Director(s) by 12 noon on Friday of week 8 of Trinity term.) The bulk of the writing of the thesis should take place in the first part of the Trinity term, in order to allow feedback from your supervisor before the summer break. The thesis must be submitted by 12 noon of the weekday on or nearest to 1 September in the year in which you have taken your examinations, that is **Thursday 1 September 2022**.

Attendance at the **Modern South Asian Studies Seminar Series** on **Tuesday afternoons at 2.00pm** is a compulsory element of the degree. The seminars usually run in weeks 1-7 in Michaelmas and Hilary terms and weeks 1-4 of Trinity term. For **Michaelmas and Hilary terms at least, the seminars will be delivered online via Zoom**. For details of the speakers and topics, see the events page of the CSASP website (<http://www.southasia.ox.ac.uk/events>).

For further information about the seminars and student involvement in them, please see p 46.

### Core Course 2021-22

The Core Course will be delivered through a series of 14 lectures held on **Mondays 2.00-4.00pm** in **Michaelmas** and **Hilary** terms. Each lecture will be followed by a seminar-style discussion. Students are expected to read all of the starred 'Key Readings' before each lecture, as preparation for each.

Each week, one or two students from the cohort will be asked to present on a relevant source (from a selection provided by the lecturer). The student presenters should choose one of these sources and in the presentation draw out the significance of the source for the general theme of the core lecture.

Please note that presentations **should not exceed 10 mins**. Your presentation will be timed, and you will be asked to stop after 10 minutes. This is both to leave time for others to contribute, and to help you to practise speaking to time, which is a very valuable skill!

The Core Course is examined by one 5000-word essay, the titles for which will be issued at the beginning of Michaelmas term. Topics will be taken from the lectures. To help you write this longer essay, 'Further Readings' are given for each lecture.

There will be group tutorial in week 8 of both Michaelmas and Hilary terms. This is your opportunity to ask any general questions you may have relating to the Core Course Essay paper and the only opportunity to get feedback on your work prior to submission of the essay. Ahead of the tutorial, please prepare an essay plan for one of the questions relating to the preceding seven weeks' lectures. Following the plenary session the students will split into smaller groups according to the question you have prepared. This may or may not be the question that you end up writing on but all students should bring an essay plan to each of the tutorials, so you will prepare one essay plan for one of the questions 1-7 in MT and a second essay plan for one of the questions 8-

14 in HT. Please come well-prepared to the tutorial as this is the last opportunity for you to receive feedback on your ideas for the Core Course Essay.

For the full list of Core Course themes, and 'Key Readings', 'Further Readings' and sources for student presentations, please see Canvas/ORLO.

#### **Michaelmas term**

- 1. South Asia: An Introduction.** Monday 11 October, 2pm. Dr Uma Pradhan & Professor Imre Bangha
  - 2. Caste in history and contemporary society.** Monday 18 October, 2pm. Professor Nayanika Mathur
  - 3. The politics of language in South Asia.** Monday 25 October, 2pm. Professor Imre Bangha
  - 4. Legacies of Colonialism.** Monday 1 November, 2pm. Dr Anwesha Roy
  - 5. The State in South Asia.** Monday 8 November, 2pm. Professor Nayanika Mathur
  - 6. Regionalism and inter-state rivalries in South Asia.** Monday 15 November, 2pm. Dr Kira Huju
  - 7. Religion and nation in modern South Asia** Monday 22 November, 2pm. Professor Justin Jones
- Group Tutorial (questions 1-7).** Monday 29 November, 2pm.

#### **Hilary term**

- 8. Economic development in South Asia.** Monday 17 January, 2pm. Dr Thiruni Kelegama
  - 9. Gender and family.** Monday 24 January, 2pm. Dr Anwesha Roy
  - 10. The South Asian state in its global context.** Monday 31 January, 2pm. Professor Kate Sullivan de Estrada
  - 11. Histories of capital and labour.** Monday 7 February, 2pm. Dr Thiruni Kelegama
  - 12. Poverty and national development.** Monday 14 February, 2pm. Dr Thiruni Kelegama
  - 13. Environment.** Monday 21 February, 2pm. Professor Nayanika Mathur
  - 14. Nations and nationalism.** Monday 28 February, 2pm. Dr Anwesha Roy.
- Group Tutorial (questions 8-14).** Monday 8 March 2 pm.

#### **Research Methods for Area Studies**

Attendance of the Research Methods lectures and classes is compulsory for all students on the MSc in Modern South Asian Studies. The Research Methods Course for South Asia will be coordinated by Dr Uma Pradhan.

There will be a combined introduction to the Research Methods course in 'noughth week' on **Thursday 7 October 2021, 2.30-3.30pm in the Nissan Institute Lecture Theatre.**

For further details of the Research Methods course please see the separate Research Methods Handbook, which will be made available to you before the session on Thursday of noughth week.

## Options

With the exception of the 'Advanced Language' Options described below, each Option is delivered through eight weekly two-hour sessions (which may include a lecture, seminar-style discussion, and/or classwork), and run in a single term, either Michaelmas or Hilary. It is **not** possible to take more than one Option paper in a single term.

General reading lists for each Option are included in the Option descriptions below. Detailed reading lists for each week will be published on Canvas and students will be required to have read the \*key items before each class.

For each Option paper apart from 'Advanced Language', students are required to submit two practice essays of approximately 2500 words each during the course of the term and will attend a half hour tutorial with the tutor (that is, the course convenor or substitute) on each. Tutorials will either be held 1:1 or in small groups.

The essays should be delivered to the tutor in advance of the tutorial, either by email or in hard copy. The tutor will read the essay adding handwritten or typed comments. The annotated essay and/or typed comments will be returned to the student at the end of the tutorial. The essay will not be given a numerical mark, though the tutor will give a ballpark indication if asked (e.g. low 50s/high 60s/over 70 etc).

## Advanced language

Convenor: **Professor Imre Bangha**



The image above shows graffiti protesting against dowry, Allahabad

Except for Hindi (elementary) running only for Michaelmas and Hilary terms, these options run throughout the year at times specified by the teaching staff at the **Faculty of Oriental Studies**, Pusey Lane. For further information, please see the termly timetables. If in doubt, please contact Professor Bangha.

South Asia is the home to many hundreds of languages, among which Hindi, Urdu and Bengali are the most widely used. The command of a local

language gives you direct contact with people who did not have access to a good English education, as well as with the multifaceted written and oral cultures of the region, of which only small parts are available in English translation.

The advanced language options set out below are designed for students who already have at least intermediate command of a South Asian language and either want to deepen their knowledge by

reading literary texts (Language Option: **Literary Hindi**, Language Option: **Urdu Prose Texts**), to explore the pre-colonial layers of learning (Language Option: **Classical Hindi**, Language Option: **Other**) or to learn another language (Language Option: **Hindi**, Language Option: **Other**). There are options designed for students with a command of Hindi to learn Urdu (Language Option: **Urdu Prose Texts**) and for students with a command of Urdu to learn Hindi (Language Option: **Literary Hindi**). Students wishing to learn Urdu from scratch should attend the Hindi classes and will learn the Urdu script in the first three weeks of Trinity term. Those interested in learning only the Devanagari or the Urdu script can attend the relevant classes at the beginning of Michaelmas term as a non-examined element of their course. Not all options may be available every year. Some other South Asian languages, such as Bengali, Gujarati or Marathi, may be available if at least three students take one as an examined option. At the beginning of the academic year, the language teachers will assess your knowledge and will advise you on your language course choices.

Hindi (that is elementary Hindi) runs for the first two terms of the year with four contact hours each week and covers the entire grammar and basic vocabulary. Most other courses operate through reading, discussing and writing about a select range of literary texts. Classes are held twice a week. Along with a close reading and translation of the texts, their socio-cultural context is also presented. Students will normally be given a vocabulary list and asked to prepare texts, and sometimes short essays. The course normally presents a 6-10 hour weekly workload including both class time and outside-class preparation through each of the three terms. Language Option: Hindi is an intensive course running for only two terms (MT and HT) so the workload during these terms is proportionately higher.

The texts read in the non-elementary classes vary each term but they normally include short stories for the modern options and poetry for the Classical Hindi option from both classic and lesser known authors. More accessible texts are read in Michaelmas term and more specialised classes are held later.

The various 'Advanced Language' Options you can take as an MSc student are as follows

- (i) Language Option: Hindi
- (ii) Language Option: Literary Hindi
- (iii) Language Option: Urdu Prose Texts
- (iv) Language Option: Classical Hindi (previously known as Brajbhasha and Old Hindi Texts)
- (v) Language Option: Other

These options are described below, along with introductory readings for each. They can only be taken by students who have at least an intermediate command of another South Asian language.

#### (i) Language Option: Hindi

This is an intensive elementary course both for beginners who already have a working knowledge of another South Asian language and for 'false' beginners, that is to say beginners who once had some familiarity with the language, but have forgotten much of it. In this course, we gradually

build up the grammar and the basic vocabulary of the language and practice listening, speaking, reading and writing. The course runs in Michaelmas and Hilary terms, during which we cover the entire material in Snell and Weightman, *Teach Yourself Complete Hindi*. The classes take place on Tuesdays 10.00-11.00am, Wednesdays 11.00am-12.00 noon, Thursdays 10.00-11.00am and Fridays 5.00-6.00pm in MT and HT. Students are expected to start familiarising with the script by the time they join and to produce regular homework of short exercises on which they receive feedback. Total contact hours: 4 hours per week or 32 hours per term throughout MT and HT. Classes take place at the Oriental Institute (except for the Wed 11-12 class which will take place in the Ground Floor Seminar Room at OSGA).

### **Introductory Readings**

R. Snell and S. Weightman. 2011. *Teach Yourself Complete Hindi*. McGraw–Hill, X-XXXVII.

(If after reading this, you find the script difficult, you can use *Read and write Hindi script: Teach Yourself*. 2010. London: Hodder & Stoughton).

Colin P. Massica. 1991. *The Indo-Aryan Languages*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 'Introduction', 1-7; 'The Modern Indo-Aryan Languages and Dialects', 8-31.

George Cardona and Dhanesh Jain, eds. 2003. *The Indo-Aryan Languages*. London: Routledge. 'General Introduction', 1-9 and M Shapiro 'Hindi', 250-8, 273-280.

### **(ii) Language Option: Literary Hindi**

This is an advanced reading course for students who already have at least an intermediate knowledge of Hindi or Urdu. Students familiar only with Urdu or with colloquial Hindi may also join and they will be introduced to the script during the first weeks. The early classes will be adapted for students' different levels of starting ability.

In this course, we read several classics of modern Hindi literature – mostly short stories but we also introduce novel and autobiography excerpts, drama and poetry. Students will be given a glossary and will also be required to write about and participate in discussion of the literary pieces. This is primarily a reading course but we also practise speaking and writing. The course runs for all three terms of the academic year, spreading the workload evenly. The classes take place on Tuesdays 11.00am-1.00pm in MT and HT and 11.00am-12.00 noon in TT. Students can further practise their communicative skills with a native speaker teacher on Fridays 4.00-5.00pm throughout the year. Total contact hours 2 hours per week in MT and HT and one hour per week in TT, with the possibility of adding 1 hour communication classes per week (8 hours per term) in all three terms. Classes take place at the Oriental Institute.

### **Introductory Readings**

Colin P. Massica. 1991. *The Indo-Aryan Languages*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 'Introduction', 1-7; 'The Modern Indo-Aryan Languages and Dialects', 8-31.

George Cardona and Dhanesh Jain, eds. 2003. *The Indo-Aryan Languages*. London: Routledge. 'General Introduction', 1-9 and M Shapiro 'Hindi', 250-8, 273-280.

C. Shackle and R. Snell. 1990. *Hindi and Urdu since 1800*. New Delhi: Heritage. 1-82.

Francesca Orsini. 2010. 'Introduction' in Alok Rai, ed. *The Oxford India Premchand*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press. 1-14.

Harish Trivedi. 2003. 'The progress of Hindi, Part 2: Hindi and the Nation'. In Sheldon Pollock, ed. *Literary Cultures in History*. Berkeley: University of California Press. 958-1022.

For those not yet familiar with the script: R. Snell. 2010. *Read and write Hindi script: Teach Yourself*. London: Hodder & Stoughton.

### (iii) Language Option: Urdu Prose Texts

This is an advanced reading course for students who already have at least an intermediate knowledge of Hindi or Urdu. Students familiar only with Hindi or with colloquial Urdu may also join. An "Introduction to written Urdu" is held in MT weeks 1-3. The early classes will be adapted for students' different levels of starting ability.

In this course, we read several classics of modern Urdu literature – mostly short stories but we also introduce novel excerpts, drama and poetry. Students will be given a glossary and will also be required to write about and participate in discussion of the literary pieces. This is primarily a reading course but we also practise speaking and writing. The course runs for all three terms of the academic year. The classes take place on Thursdays 11.00am-1.00pm in MT and HT and **weeks 4-8 only** of Trinity term as well as Tuesdays 10-11 in **weeks 4-8** of Trinity term (with additional classes on Wednesdays 10.00-11.00 am in weeks 1-3 of MT for those unfamiliar with the script). Total contact hours are therefore 2 hours per week in MT and HT (with an additional 1 hour x 3 weeks for those new to the script) which equates to 16 hours per term (19 hours per term in MT for those new to the script) and 3 hours per week x 5 weeks in TT (or 15 hours per term). Classes take place at the Oriental Institute.

#### Introductory Readings

Colin P. Massica. 1991. *The Indo-Aryan Languages*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 'Introduction', 1-7; 'The Modern Indo-Aryan Languages and Dialects', 8-31.

George Cardona and Dhanesh Jain, eds. 2003. *The Indo-Aryan Languages*. London: Routledge. 'General Introduction', 1-9 and Ruth Laila Smith, 'Urdu', 288-308, 342-6.

C. Shackle and R. Snell: *Hindi and Urdu since 1800*. New Delhi: Heritage. 1-82

Ralph Russel and Khurshidul Islam. 1992. *Three Mughal poets*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.

Francesca Orsini. 2010. 'Introduction'. In F. Orsini, ed. *Before the Divide*. New Delhi: Orient Blackswan. 1-20.

F. W. Pritchett. 2003. 'A Long History of Urdu Literary Culture, Part 2: Histories, Performances and Masters'. In Sheldon Pollock, ed. *Literary Cultures in History*, Berkeley: University of California Press. 864-911.

For those joining Introduction to Written Urdu: R. Delacy. 2010. *Read and Write Urdu Script*. Teach Yourself Books, 7-30.

### (iv) Language Option: Classical Hindi

(previously known as Brajbhasha and Old Hindi Texts)

This is an advanced reading course for students who already have at least an intermediate knowledge of Hindi or Urdu. In this course, we read both classic and little-known poems of Old Hindi literature. Students will be given a glossary and will also be required to write about and participate in discussion of the literary pieces. This is primarily a reading course and runs for all three terms of the academic year, spreading the workload evenly. The classes take place on

Wednesdays 11.00am-1.00pm in MT, HT and the first six weeks of TT. Total contact hours are 16 hours in MT and HT and 12 hours in TT. Classes take place at the Oriental Institute.

### Introductory readings

Colin P. Massica. 1991. *The Indo-Aryan Languages*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 'Introduction, 1-7; 'The Modern Indo-Aryan Languages and Dialects', 8-31.

George Cardona and Dhanesh Jain eds. 2003. *The Indo-Aryan Languages*. London: Routledge. 'General Introduction, pp. 1-9 and M Shapiro, 'Hindi' 250-8, 273-280.

R. Snell. 'Braj in Brief' <http://hindiurduflagship.org/resources/learning-teaching/braj-in-brief/>

R. Snell. 1992. 'Introduction'. *The Hindi Classical Tradition*. New Delhi: Heritage. 3-50.  
<http://hindiurduflagship.org/resources/learning-teaching/braj-bhasha-reader/>

J. S. Hawley. 2009. 'Introduction'. In J. S. Hawley, *The Memory of Love: Sūrdās Sings to Krishna*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 3-44.

Harish Trivedi. 2003. 'The Progress of Hindi, Part 1: The Development of a Transregional Idiom'. In Sheldon Pollock, ed. *Literary Cultures in History*. Berkeley: University of California Press. 912-957.

Allison Busch. 2011. *Poetry of Kings: The Classical Hindi Literature of Mughal India*. Ch 2, 'The aesthetic world of riti poetry'. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 65-101.

### (v) Language Option: Other

Subject to a minimum of three students wishing to take it, either Bengali (elementary or classical), Gujarati (elementary) or Marathi (elementary) will run throughout the academic year (classes on Thursdays 4.00-6.00pm in MT, HT and TT; 2 hours per week or 16 hours per term). Classes take place at the Oriental Institute.

Persian (elementary or advanced) is available at the Faculty of Oriental Studies. Acceptance onto this course is subject to timetabling and the discretion of both the Modern South Asian Studies Teaching Committee and the Oriental Studies GSC.

### Education, State, and Society in South Asia

Convenor: **Dr Uma Pradhan**

This option runs on **Tuesdays** in **Michaelmas term 10.00am-12.00 noon**

venue: **Ground Floor Seminar Room, OSGA 11 Bevington Road**



A school in Nepal

What is education, and who counts as an 'educated person in South Asia? Through a focus on India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Nepal, this course will enable students to critically consider the myriad ways in which education intersects with social and political ideas, institutions, and identities. It will capture diverse and competing educational experiences and trajectories; examine the process of construction and transmission of knowledge in different sites within and beyond institutions of formal education, and explore the interconnections between education, state, and

society. These perspectives will shed light on the multiple ways in which processes of education intersect with socio-political ideas, institutions, and identities.

The main aim of the course is to (re-)examine education transformations in the context of larger social and political change, or the lack of it, in the region. The course will also provoke students to think about South Asia as a unique site for theorizing the social and political dynamics of education in the contemporary world.

### Introductory Readings

Levinson, B.A., D.E. Foley, and D.C. Holland (eds) 1996. *The Cultural Construction of the Educated Person: Critical Ethnographies of Schooling Practice*. Albany: State University of New York Press.

Laura Ahearn. 2001. *Invitations to Love: Literacy, Love letter and Social change in Nepal*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.

Patricia Jeffery, R Jeffery, and C Jeffrey. 2014. Islamization, Gentrification and Domestication: 'A Girls' Islamic Course' and Rural Muslims in Western Uttar Pradesh. *Modern Asian Studies*. 38 (1): 1-53

Veronique Benei. 2008. *Schooling Passions: Nation, History, and Language in Contemporary Western India*. Stanford, Calif.: Stanford University Press.

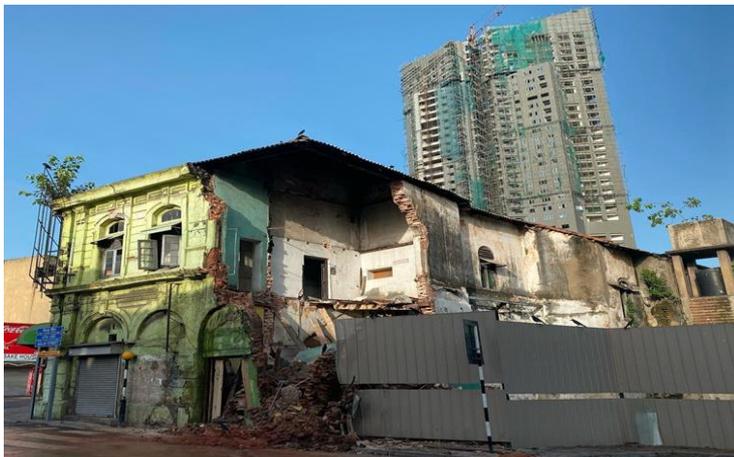
Bradley A U Levinson et al. (ed). 2000. *Schooling the Symbolic Animal: Social and Cultural Dimensions of Education*. Maryland: Rowman and Littlefield Publishers.

## The Economic Development of South Asia: 1947 to the present

Convenor: **Dr Thiruni Kelegama**

This option runs on **Wednesdays** in **Michaelmas term 2.00-4.00pm**

venue: **online via Teams**



Development at work, Colombo, Sri Lanka

South Asia today is not only geopolitically significant but has risen to global prominence as an important locale for burgeoning economic growth and development, cultural production and nation building. Since the early 1990s, the region has experienced unprecedented levels of economic growth and rapid social change. Its rapidly growing economies diverge across and within Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka thereby paving

the way for “development”. This course examines the political economy of development, comparing how societies pursue development across time and space. It will explore how South Asia became a 'development problem' and the various strategies employed over the decades since colonial times to bring about social, political and economic transformation in the region and considers the theories underpinning specific development strategies and initiatives. It reconstructs

the project of development, uncovers how it works in practice, analyses how it is embedded in society and history and asks how its dysfunctions play out as South Asia rises to global prominence.

It is important to note that this course does not assume any prior knowledge of economics. The teaching modality and reading are multi-disciplinary, drawing on key theoretical debates and discussions in geography, political science, development studies, sociology, anthropology, history etc., thereby providing a unique mix of approaches to the economic development of the region.

#### **Introductory readings:**

Burki, S.J (1999), *Pakistan: Fifty Years of Nationhood*, Boulder: Westview Press.

Eastlery, W (2003), 'The Political Economy of Growth Without Development: A Case Study of Pakistan', in D.Rodrik (2003), *In search of prosperity: analytic narratives on economic growth*, Princeton, NJ, Princeton University Press.

Evans, P. (1995), 'Embedded Autonomy: States and Industrial Transformation'. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Kohli, A (2004), 'State-Directed Development: Political Power and Industrialisation in the Global Periphery', Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Moore, M (1990), 'Economic Liberalization versus Political Pluralism in Sri Lanka?', *Modern Asian Studies*, 24:2, pp.341-382.

Osmani, S.R. (2018), 'Socio-Economic Development in South Asia: The Past 50 Years', *WIDER Working Paper 2018/105*. Available at: <https://www.wider.unu.edu>

Rhee, Y.W (1990), 'The Catalyst Model of Development: Lessons from Bangladesh's Success with Garment Exports' *World Development*, 18:2, pp.333-346.

Sen, A (1999), *Development as Freedom*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

### **Gender and Society in India, c. 1800 to the present**

**Convenor: Dr Anwasha Roy**

**This option runs on Thursdays in Michaelmas term 2.00-4.00pm**

**venue: Room 114, Oriental Institute, Pusey Lane**

What do we mean when we use the word 'gender' in the context of history writing? We often use statements such as 'rewriting history' through the gender lens – what does this imply? Is it simply studying women's history? This course will answer such questions by examining socio-economic and political relations in India from the 1800s to the present, using gender *relations* as a tool for historical analysis – thereby exploring power dynamics and the (re)structuring of both colonial and post-colonial society in India and providing a nuanced understanding of historically specific politics. Gender has been central to India's experience of colonialism. From the conflicts over widow remarriage and the age of consent to interconnections with caste, labour and nationalism, the status of Indian women attracted the gaze of missionaries, colonial legislators and metropolitan liberals. For Indian conservatives, reformers and later nationalists, women and the family became powerful symbols, conveying a complex mix of different class, community and national identities.



A painting from the late C19th Bengal Kalighat school, 'Woman striking man with broom'. It reflects contemporary fears about changing power relationships in the household.

Colonialism posed several troubling issues for men and masculinity. The experience of colonialism created a new moral vision for men and gender within family, community and nation, often in the face of unsettling assertions of women's rights and freedoms. The heightened significance of gender was nowhere more striking than over the years of Partition, when violence against women on either side underscored their roles as symbols of community, class and state.

Although this longer term history continues to find echoes, independent India has also set its own different trajectories in the field of gender. Women are active at every level of politics, women's organisations flourish, and the emergence of new urban middle classes across the region have re-set sexual norms and expectations for men and women alike. At the same time, many regional societies have witnessed a savage backlash against expanding freedoms for young women, while the increasingly skewed gender ratio is testament to the greater valuation still placed on sons over daughters. Rising Hindu nationalism has also

made space for women ideologues and RSS and *Shiv Sena* women themselves reinforce the patriarchal narratives of militant Hinduism.

This paper will give students a chance to explore these longer term history of gender relations in different parts of India, as well as their changing forms in the present day. Taking forward arguments by Joan Scott, gender will be studied both as a form of ideology often used to underpin hierarchy in many areas of society, and as a set of roles and practices with great power to shape men's and women's lives.

### Introductory Readings

Chakraborty, Chandrima. 2014. *Mapping South Asian Masculinities: Men and Political Crises*. Special issue of *South Asian History and Culture*, vol. 5, no. 4.

Ghosh, Durba. 2007. *Sex and the Family in Colonial India: The Making of Empire*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Kumar, Radha. 1993. *The history of doing: An illustrated account of movements for women's rights and feminism in India, 1800-1990*. Delhi: Zubaan. ch. 2

Newbigin, Eleanor. 2013. *The Hindu Family and the Emergence of Modern India: Law, Citizenship and Community*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Sarkar, Tanika and Sumit Sarkar. 2008. *Women and Social Reform in Modern India: A Reader*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

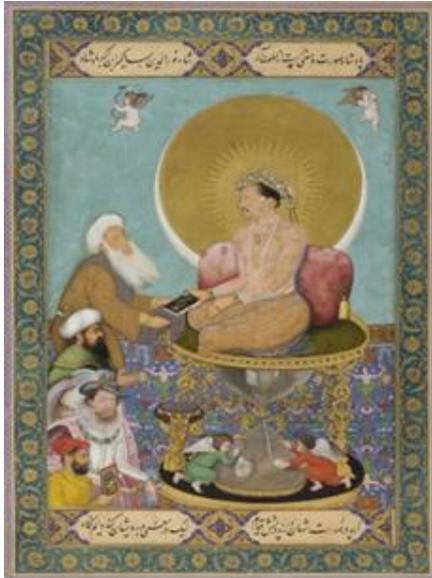
Sunder Rajan, Rajeshwari. 2003. *The Scandal of the State: Women, Law and Citizenship in postcolonial India*. Durham: Duke University Press.

## Societies and Economies in India, c. 1600-1800

Convenors: **Professor Imre Bangha and Professor Polly O'Hanlon**

This option runs on **Fridays** in **Michaelmas term 2.00-4.00pm**

Venue: **Lecture Room 1, Oriental Institute, Pusey Lane**



The emperor Jahangir preferring a Sufi Shaikh to Kings, c. 1615-18

Far-reaching social and economic changes took place across the Mughal world during what historians call the 'early modern' centuries. The inflow of silver enabled states across the region to begin to make their transactions in cash. Peasant communities in ecologically favoured areas moved into cash cropping for the market. The growth of gentry elites in the towns saw new markets for luxury goods of all kinds, from paintings and fine manuscripts, to cloth, jewellery and metalwork. The new importance of cash and commerce brought merchant and banking families to new positions of India-wide influence and power. These were centuries of great social mobility, as skilled people of all kinds – craftsmen, peasant farmers, military men, scribal people and service communities moved into and across the subcontinent in search of opportunity.

India in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries was very much the workshop of the world and open for business. Its craft manufactures, well-established credit facilities and open access made it a magnet for European trading companies. These were also, and paradoxically, the features that enabled the East India Company to enter the Indian arena, first as a provider of commercial and military services, and then, in the context of Mughal imperial decline, as the subcontinent's new political overlords.

This option offers the chance to explore some fascinating debates about India and the world in this period. How far were Indian trajectories of social development fundamentally altered during this early era of globalisation? Did structures of class, caste, religious community and regional cultures develop distinctive new forms after India's 'medieval' centuries and before the coming of colonialism? How far can we say that India in this period shared in early forms of 'modernity'?

### Introductory Readings

Catherine Asher and Cynthia Talbot. 2007. *India Before Europe*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Muzaffar Alam. 2004. *The Languages of Political Islam*. London: Hurst and Company.

Gilmartin, David and Bruce Lawrence eds. 2000. *Beyond Turk and Hindu: rethinking religious identities in Islamicate South Asia*. Gainesville: University Press of Florida.

Kaicker, Abhishekh. 2020. *The King and the People. Sovereignty and Popular Politics in Delhi*.

Moin, A. Afzar. 2012. *The Millennial Sovereign. Sacred Kingship and Sainthood in Islam*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Subrahmanyam, Sanjay. 1997. 'Connected Histories: Notes towards a Reconfiguration of Early Modern Eurasia' in *Modern Asian Studies* 31, 3, 735-762.

Washbrook, David. 2007. 'India in the early modern world economy: modes of production, reproduction and exchange' in *Journal of Global History*, 2, 87-111.

## The Anthropology of Buddhism

Convenor: **Professor David Gellner**

This option runs on **Tuesdays** in **Hilary Term 10.00am-12.00 noon [time subject to change]**  
venue: **Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology, 51-53 Banbury Road.**



Early morning alms round in Luang Prabang, Laos, February 2015

Buddhism, of all the world religions, arguably comes closest to the ideal type of a soteriology or transcendent ideology; it offers a model of personal transformation and social relationships that is radically different from the Abrahamic religions. As such it arguably is also South Asia's most influential soft-power export. Its global influence and salience in the modern world, whether in South Asian, Tibetan, Southeast Asian, or East Asian forms, make it a highly relevant focus or way into an understanding of classical anthropological concerns, such as exchange, hierarchy,

belief, ritual, migration, modernization, and globalization.

This option is assessed by a 4,000-word essay (titles released in week 7 of HT) and a 1,000-word book review, both due on Thursday of week 2 of Trinity term. For details of the marking criteria, please see the School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography (SAME) website.

### Introductory readings

Gellner, D.N. & R.F. Gombrich 2015. 'Buddhism' in J.D. Wright (ed.) *International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.) Vol 2. Oxford: Elsevier.

Gombrich, R.F. 2006. *Theravada Buddhism: A Social History from Ancient Benares to Modern Colombo*. Routledge.

Gross, R.M. 2013. 'Buddhism and Gender', *Oxford Bibliographies*. DOI: 10.1093/obo/9780195393521-0146.

Harvey, P. 2013. *An Introduction to Buddhism* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). Cambridge: Univ. Press.

Jerryson, M. (ed.) 2016. *The Oxford Handbook of Contemporary Buddhism*. OUP.

Lopez, D. (ed.) 2005. *Critical Terms for Buddhist Studies*. Princeton: Univ. Press.

Samuel, G. 2012. *Introducing Tibetan Buddhism*. Routledge.

Vargas-O'Bryan, I. 2013. 'Anthropology of Buddhism', *Oxford Bibliographies*. DOI: 10.1093/obo/9780195393521-0001.

Samuels, J., J.T. McDaniel, & M.M. Rowe (eds) 2016. *Figures of Buddhist Modernity in Asia*. Honolulu: Univ. of Hawai'i Press.

## Themes in the History of Pakistan

Convenor: Dr Yasser Kureshi

This option runs on **Tuesdays** in **Hilary Term 4.00-6.00pm**  
venue: **Ground Floor Seminar Room at OSGA, 11 Bevington Road**

Pakistan is often viewed as a dangerous, failing or frightening state, the reality is very different. Pakistan is a forgotten economic success story of the developing world, especially in relation to its precarious inheritance of 1947. Pakistan is a puzzle, a country that shared many of the same institutions, geography, culture and colonial history as India but yet has experienced a dramatically different post-independence political history. Pakistan is a paradox, as it has produced both repressive dictatorships, and bold and effective resistance movements. Pakistan was broken apart in civil war in 1971. The poorer Eastern Pakistan (now Bangladesh) was labelled a 'basket case' in the mid-1970s and is now lauded as a human development success story. The richer Western Pakistan (now simply Pakistan) was widely heralded as one of the world's miracle economies in the 1960s, but is now more commonly seen as an economic failure. Pakistan has long been seen to be subordinate to the US, will the recent turn to China and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor change that or lead to a new form of dependence?



Syed Sadequain Ahmed Naqvi. *Aftaab-e-Taaza*, an illustration of poetry by Iqbal

This lecture course does not just offer a set of themes but challenges you to think again about a fascinating, yet deeply misunderstood country. The course is suitable for students with any academic background.

### Introductory Readings

Oldenburg, P (2010), *India, Pakistan, and Democracy: Solving the Puzzle of Divergent Paths*, New York, Routledge

McCartney, M and A.Zaidi (2019), *New Perspectives on Pakistan's Political Economy: State, Class and Social Change*, New Delhi, Cambridge University Press

Jalal, A (1995), *Democracy and Authoritarianism in South Asia: A Comparative and Historical Perspective*, New York, Cambridge University Press

Talbot, I (1998), *Pakistan: A Modern History*, London, Hurst and Co.

## The Anthropology of South Asia

Convenor: **Professor David Gellner**

This option runs on **Thursdays** in **Hilary Term 12.00 noon-2.00pm [time subject to change]**

venue: **Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology, 51-53 Banbury Road.**

There is enormous cultural diversity within South Asia, even within a single region of one country, let alone in the entire subcontinent. There is also a rich, voluminous, and important anthropological and ethnographic literature on the area. This course seeks to provide an orientation and an introduction to the social anthropological themes of caste, kinship, religion, personhood, ethnicity, and political and social change in the South Asian context, including an



A reception room in the headman's house in the village of 'Rampur', near Mysore, Karnataka, made famous by M.N. Srinivas's book, *The Remembered Village*.

appreciation of their contemporary relevance. The course includes engagement with ethnographic particulars, through close readings of monographs, and with specific sites (primarily in India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Nepal). The course will be taught seminar-style, i.e. primarily through presentations by the students and joint discussion; it will depend, therefore, on all participants doing the key readings each week.

This option is assessed by a 4000-word essay (titles released in week 7 of HT) and a 1000-word book review, both due on Thursday of week 2 of Trinity term. For details of the marking criteria, please see the School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography (SAME) website.

### Introductory readings

Boo, K. 2012. *Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death and Hope in a Mumbai Slum*. New York: Random House.

Das, V. 1997. *Critical Events: An Anthropological Perspective on Contemporary India*. Delhi: Oxford University Press.

Fuller, C.J. 2004 (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). *The Camphor Flame: Popular Society and Hinduism in India*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Jodhka, S. 2012. *Caste*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.

Lamb, S. & D. Mines 2012 (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). *Everyday Life in South Asia*. Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University Press.

Mosse, D. 2018. 'Caste and development: Contemporary perspectives on a structure of discrimination and advantage' *World Development* 110: 422–36.

Rege, S. 2013. *Writing Caste/Writing Gender: Narrating Dalit Women's Testimonios*. Delhi: Zubaan Books.

Srinivas, M.N. 1976. *The Remembered Village*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

## Trade and Exchange in South Asia: Transcultural Objects, Relations and Identities

Convenor: **Professor Mallica Kumbera Landrus**

This option runs on **Thursdays** in **Hilary term 2.30-4.30pm**

venue: **Ashmolean Museum**

The discipline of history of art is an object-based cultural history founded on the basis that objects represent and reflect the ideas and values of people who commissioned, created, used and collected them. The objects are primary sources documenting the changes in social, religious, economic, and political ideas within their historical contexts. Thus, the history of art is inherently an interdisciplinary and cross-cultural subject that illuminates our shared society and identity, similarities as well as differences.



Ivory cabinet, 1600s, Sri Lanka,  
© Ashmolean Museum

Material culture in South Asia presents a remarkable case study in the creation of a visual vocabulary and language of meaning. Students will be encouraged to explore a range of visual and material culture within its historical, political and social context on the Indian subcontinent. The function, trade and/or diplomatic exchange of objects, and ideas with regard to technology and transcultural identities will in large part be the subject of the eight weekly classes (2 hours each) in this option.

No previous experience is necessary or expected in the study of material and visual culture. The weekly classes will identify and explore various issues surrounding the use and exchange of material visual culture in and from modern South Asia. It is intended that students should develop a critical ability to place material culture in their historical and regional contexts in South Asia, while also exploring visual culture as features of socio-economic and political conditions.

### Introductory Readings

Maxine Berg. *Goods from the East, 1600 – 1800: Trading Eurasia* (New York 2015)

K N Chaudhuri. *The Trading World of Asia and the English East India Company 1660-1760* (Cambridge 1978)

Finbarr Barry Flood. *Objects of Translation: Material Culture and Medieval 'Hindu-Muslim' Encounter* (Princeton and Oxford 2009)

Anna Jackson (ed.), *Encounters: The Meeting of Asia and Europe 1500–1800* (V&A 2004)

Amin Jaffer. *Luxury Goods from India, The Art of the Indian Cabinet Maker* (V&A 2002)

Kajri Jain. *Gods in the Bazaar: The Economies of Indian Calendar Art* (Duke 2017)

Giorgio Riello. *Cotton: The Fabric that Made the Modern World* (Cambridge 2015)

## International Relations of South Asia

Convenor: **Professor Kate Sullivan de Estrada**

This option runs on **Fridays** in **Hilary term 11.00am-1.00pm**

venue: **TBC** (possibly at St Antony's College)



The beating retreat ceremony at Wagah Border of India-Pakistan (Courtesy Gargisharma13).

What is South Asia, and what are the challenges of studying South Asia through the discipline of International Relations? Through a course of eight lectures and classes, we unpack the unique historical, geographical, political, economic and demographic features that have shaped the inter-state and extra-regional relations of South Asia since 1947.

Thematically, we engage with conflict and competition in the form of the enduring antagonistic (and recently nuclearized) relationship between India and Pakistan;

disputes over territory between India and Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bangladesh; and conflicts emerging from the complex interplay of identities, both cultural and political, arising from internal secessionisms, insurgencies, and religious/ethnic disputes affecting parts of Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka. No other region is as dominated by a single country as South Asia is by India, and we explore how India's hegemony in South Asia has evoked a range of responses from India, its neighbours and the wider world. We also examine successful and less successful examples of cooperation within the region, for example in respect of the riverine resources of the region, and through the regional institutional apparatus of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). Viewed in comparative perspective, however, we find that South Asian regionalism is weakly institutionalized, leading to often pessimistic prognoses about the region's potential for deep economic and political integration. Moreover, South Asia is not an isolated region. During the Cold War the Great Powers played an often divisive role, and China's influence in the region is growing in significance.

Students will develop a critical ability to understand the theoretical assumptions that have shaped much of the production of IR scholarship on South Asia and that condition readings of events in the international politics of the region. They will develop a comparative perspective from which to understand inter-regional dynamics and the role of regional powers, an empirical foundation with which to narrate key moments in the bilateral and multilateral interactions between states in the region, and a sense of South Asia's place and significance in the broader international arena.

### Introductory Readings

Devin T. Hagerty, *South Asia in World Politics* (Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2005)

Sandy Gordon, *India's Rise as an Asian Power: Nation, Neighborhood, and Region* (Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press, 2014)

Ayesha Jalal, *The Struggle for Pakistan: A Muslim Homeland and Global Politics* (Cambridge, Massachusetts, 2014)

Robert McMahon, *Cold War on the Periphery: The United States, India and Pakistan* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1994)

T.V. Paul, *The Warrior State: Pakistan in the Contemporary World* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2014)

Lawrence Sáez, *The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC): An Emerging Collaboration Architecture* (Abingdon: Routledge, 2012)

E. Sridharan (ed.), *International Relations Theory and South Asia: Security, Political Economy, Domestic Politics, Identities, and Images*. (New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2014)

Ramesh Thakur and Oddny Wiggen, *South Asia in the world: Problem solving perspectives on security, sustainable development, and good governance* (Tokyo; New York: United Nations University Press, 2004)

## Social History of Colonial India 1800-1947

Convenor: **Dr Anwasha Roy**

This option runs on **Fridays in Hilary Term 2.00-4.00pm**

venue: **Room 114, Oriental Institute, Pusey Lane**

Studying the social history of India is as complex as it is interesting. We will interrogate what we mean by 'social' history, the multiple layers within it and how do we write such histories. These questions will be posed through the course with reference to several interconnected historical processes (how the social is impacted by political and economic and vice-versa) and the question of ever-changing identities lies at the heart of much of the debates in the course. Classes are organized around a number of themes: Changing environments, Caste, Religious Reform, Gender; Nationalism and Decolonization. Topics to be covered within the thematic clusters include: technological change, urbanization, the making of peasant societies, colonial knowledge and colonial law, Christian, Hindu and Muslim religious change, ethno-linguistic and religious movements, Gandhi and mass nationalism, and of course, Partition and its experience. This paper will give students a chance to explore the longer-term history of social relations in different parts of colonial India and their changing forms in the present day.

### Introductory Readings:

Sumit Sarkar, *Writing Social History*, OUP India, 1999

Gautam Bhadra, *Four Rebels of 1857, Selected Subaltern Studies* OUP India, 1988

Christopher R. King, *One Language, Two Scripts: The Hindi Movement in 19<sup>th</sup> C North India*. New Delhi, OUP, 1994

Gyan Pandey, *The Construction of Communalism in Colonial North India*. OUP, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, 2012

### The Thesis (12,000 words maximum)

You will produce the final write-up of your thesis over the summer months after the end of formal teaching of the course. However, you will do most of the planning and preparation during the year itself. You will probably arrive in Oxford with some idea as to the topic you want to pursue. You will discuss your choice with your general supervisor, who will guide you towards a specialist supervisor if need be. You will submit your thesis title form by Friday of 'week minus one' of Hilary

term (Friday 7 January 2022) so the title of the thesis can be approved by the Course Director and Teaching Committee in noughth week of Hilary term and your thesis supervisor can be appointed. Topics may fall within any area related to Modern South Asia for which supervision can be provided. Please note the requirements for CUREC, Activity/Travel and Fieldwork Risk Assessments and COVID-19 Risk Assessments, which apply even if you are returning to your home country to conduct fieldwork and research or conducting fieldwork in the UK. (You can find further details on pages 51-57 below.)

Over the course of the Hilary term, you will present your developing thesis ideas to a seminar of your fellow students and relevant teachers, and you will receive feedback on your research proposal presentation during a meeting with your thesis supervisor. During the Hilary vacation, and the Trinity term you will do a good part of the preparatory reading and research. Over the Trinity term, you should also aim to complete your chapter plan, summaries of each chapter (including sources to be used for each), a draft of your introduction, **at least** one full chapter in draft form, and a draft of your Bibliography. You should aim to have these materials with your supervisor by Friday of week 5 of Trinity term, so as to allow sufficient time to obtain feedback before the end of Trinity term. It is **vital** that you keep to this timetable so that you are prepared to finish writing your thesis under your own steam over the summer months.

The thesis must be submitted by 12 noon of the weekday on or nearest to 1 September in the year in which you have taken your examinations, that is Thursday 1 September 2022. Please see page 64 for further details of what is included in and excluded from the word count.

The thesis will test students' capacities to: understand concepts and arguments in the literature; develop their own independent arguments; demonstrate knowledge of empirical material and how to present it in a coherent manner; formulate a research project, discuss appropriate methodologies, carry out research (either field- or library- based) and write a substantial, academic piece of work. Students will be encouraged to display originality, either in a fresh approach to the existing literature or in exploring primary source material in new ways. It is not required that materials in South Asian languages are used for the thesis, although some students with advanced language skills may use them, particularly to draw on vernacular language primary sources.

The thesis will be examined for its competence, conceptual grasp, and innovation. The examiners expect a balanced, engaging, well-presented and appropriately referenced academic piece of work, which draws on the relevant literature, displays analytical skill, develops an argument and comes to a conclusion. All the chapters should show competent and creative scholarship. It is expected that the best of these essays will be worthy of publication.

The marking guide for the thesis can be found in Annexe 2 of the Exam Conventions on Canvas.

The Examiners will assess the thesis under three broad headings:

1. *Aim*: What does the thesis set out to do? How well is that aim achieved given an intellectual and practical context by reference to literature and/or a case study?

2. *Execution*: What is the research method and design? How appropriate is the evidence? How appropriate and rigorous are the analytical techniques? Does the thesis have an argument? Is the reasoning clear? Is the argument logical? Does it deal with relevant literature and reach a justified conclusion?
3. *Presentation*: Is the physical presentation (e.g. format, illustration, footnotes, bibliography, etc.) of an acceptable and consistent standard?

The examiners will then give an overall assessment based on a combination of the above.

A good thesis should ask a meaningful research question and situate that question within the existing scholarship. The thesis as a whole should aim to provide a plausible ‘answer’ to the research question by constructing a **central argument** or **narrative** based on **evidence** or **data**. A thesis usually makes use of a **theoretical or conceptual framework** which helps to structure the argument and to define its central concepts. A thesis should always include an explicit justification of how and why it draws on the specific types and amount of evidence or data included within it, and how these were obtained – this is broadly referred to as the **methodology**. The main body of the thesis is made up of the argument and the supporting evidence or data – the **empirical material**. At the end of the thesis comes the **conclusion** which revisits the research question, very briefly summarises the central argument or narrative and weighs up the usefulness and limitations of the **research design** as a whole (that is, it evaluates the choice of question, theoretical or conceptual framework, methodology, empirical material and the overall ‘answer’ to the research question). It also explores the implications of the ‘answer’ for similar empirical research or theoretical debates within the related scholarship, or perhaps even makes recommendations for the world of policy. Finally, a good thesis should be well-structured, properly referenced and well-presented.

Remember that your thesis is part of the MSc in Modern South Asian Studies, and so your research question and the scholarship you relate it to **must focus on one or more states or societies of the region**. You will need to engage with literature relevant to the region, and when you apply theoretical and conceptual frameworks or draw on literature from studies of other parts of the world, you will need to discuss explicitly the relevance and usefulness of the insights derived from these. The thesis will form a key investment in your bank of South Asian expertise, and you should see it as an opportunity to broaden and deepen your knowledge of the region.

### **General requirements**

The thesis may be the longest piece of work you have ever written and it is crucial to develop and work within a clear structure. This is helpful to you as a researcher, since it will allow you to organise your thoughts and material, and as a student, since it will enable the examiners to better follow and understand your research design.

Your thesis should contain the following elements, though the order is flexible:

- A cover page as per the requirements of assessed work (please see Canvas)

- A table of contents indicating the page numbers and headings of each section or chapter
- An introduction, including
  - a clear statement of the research question
  - a contextualisation of the research question – why is it worth asking and how does it relate to existing scholarship?
  - a brief indication of your key findings or ‘answer’ to the research question, and perhaps a very brief summary of the central argument or narrative that takes you to that answer
  - a clear roadmap of how the thesis will proceed
- An explanation and justification of the theoretical or conceptual framework and central concepts used in the thesis
- An explanation and justification of the methodology employed by you, the researcher
- An explicit engagement with, and critical analysis of, the existing literature
- Empirical chapter/s or section/s in which you present the evidence that supports your argument. These may be divided thematically, chronologically or according to another ordering principle
- A conclusion, including an evaluation of your research and a discussion of the implications of your research
- A comprehensive and consistently presented bibliography

You may also choose to include supporting material in the form of appendices should you wish to refer the reader to supporting materials. These might be items such as detailed tabulated data, sections of legislation, or excerpts of speeches, statements or texts. A table of acronyms or abbreviations may be helpful if these feature extensively in the thesis. Appendices are not included in the word count but they must serve as supplementary or reference material only, which means that the arguments you make in the main body of your thesis must be able to stand alone, without the appendices.

Remember above all the importance of *presentation*. Your thesis should be free of typographical, grammar and language errors. Your arguments should be easy to follow and well-ordered. The bibliography should be complete, with a consistent style. It is a good idea to schedule a margin of time before the deadline for final corrections. Though the thesis must be all your own work, finding someone to proofread the final draft for errors and inconsistencies is a good idea. If somebody else does proofread your final draft you must make sure that you follow the University’s guidelines on what is permissible at <https://academic.admin.ox.ac.uk/policies/third-party-proof-readers>.

## **Thesis trouble-shooting**

It is usual for students to feel overwhelmed during the thesis writing process. Uncertainty about the choice of topic, feeling lost within a sea of literature or data, and decisions about what sections of argument and evidence to include and exclude are common concerns at different stages. Below is a basic set of questions that you should consult regularly during the planning, writing, and revision stages of your thesis. Above all, you should meet frequently with your thesis supervisor, who will be able to help you find answers to these kinds of questions.

### ***Focus***

- What precisely is the focus of your thesis?
- How does it relate to existing empirical and theoretical literature?
- What is the scope of your study and is this feasible given the available time and word limit?

### ***Purpose***

- What are you covering in this topic?
- What time periods or case studies are you focusing on?
- What is the central question your thesis aims to answer?
- What is the major objective of the thesis?
- What key idea or ideas would you like your readers to go away with?

## **Some frequently asked questions**

### ***Is this a good topic?***

A good topic is one that you are interested in, one that raises an important question or puzzle and one around which there is sufficient literature or data available for you to construct an argument or narrative. Well-written theses that ask unusual questions and explore innovative topics generally attract high praise from examiners and could form the basis of a future, longer research project. But you do not necessarily need to venture into the unknown – revisiting an old question on the basis of new data or literature or by adopting a new approach can also produce a strong and lively thesis. There is a fine balance between choosing an unusual topic for which there is little or no literature or data available (which may be more suitable for a PhD/DPhil) and selecting a topic that has been visited so often there is little new to say. Talk to your thesis supervisor who will help you find a practicable topic that feels right for you.

### ***How do I know which literatures to consult?***

The best way to locate useful and meaningful literature around your topic is to consult those scholars who are already very familiar with it. You will need to find a balance between approaching highly specific literature or data that speaks directly to your research question and drawing on more standard scholarly works such that your research makes sense in the broader context of existing scholarship. Approach works by other scholars on your topic and make a note of the key, standard works that they draw on, as well as the more specific and useful pieces that they may direct you to. You might choose to consult with scholars who specialise in your chosen

area by email or in person. There are many specialists within Oxford who study aspects of South Asia, but you might also approach scholars at other institutions. Many will be more than pleased to assist you if they have the time.

*There is so much to include, how will I fit it all in?*

Identifying the scope of your research early on and setting clear boundaries is possibly the most useful task you will perform during the production of your thesis. Clearly defining the theoretical, methodological and empirical boundaries is likely something you may have to repeat during the research process, particularly if you encounter a dead end in the search for one type of data or evidence, or if you discover another type which you believe will help you to answer your research question more plausibly. It is often hard to let material go if you have spent a lot of time gathering and writing it up, but in the interest of a tight and coherent argument, you may find you have to cut sections out. Using the introduction to clarify the question and the empirical scope of the thesis, such as the case studies or the time periods you focus on, will narrow the focus of the thesis. Regular discussions with your thesis supervisor will help you identify appropriate boundaries and make adjustments early on, thereby helping you to make the best of your time.

*I am well over the word count – what do I do?*

The best way to avoid straying over the word limit is be clear about the scope of your thesis early on and to stick to the milestones for developing your thesis and communicating your plans to your supervisor (see above). If you are still finding it difficult to cut down on words, think carefully about the material you have included. Does each and every section support your general argument? Have you included too much detail? Is there too much repetition? Could you simplify some sections of the argument or tighten up your writing?

## Modern South Asian Studies Seminar

Convenors: **Nayanika Mathur, Imre Bangha, Anwesa Roy, Thiruni Kelegama** and  
**Kate Sullivan de Estrada**



Seminar on Demonetisation November 2016

The Modern South Asian Studies seminar meets on Tuesdays at 2.00pm each week, weeks 1-7 of Michaelmas and Hilary terms, and weeks 1-4 of Trinity term. It is hoped that later in the year, circumstances will allow some seminars to take place in the Syndicate Room at St Antony's college, which is located in the Old Main Building. For Michaelmas and Hilary terms at least, seminars will be delivered **online via Zoom**. This has the advantage that we have been able to include some excellent international speakers in our programme for the term.

Speakers from a wide range of fields within South Asia will present their research over the course of the year. The seminars offer you an opportunity to broaden your knowledge and to familiarise yourself with different disciplinary approaches as these are applied in live projects of research, so that you can see how you might use them for yourself. Participation will also develop your ability to think on your feet and to make confident interventions in live academic debate.

Following the speaker's presentation (about 45 mins), there will be a Q&A session. For each of these sessions **two** students will volunteer each week to act as 'respondents' and come up with a question each to ask the speaker. The seminars will be chaired by faculty members who will call on other students to contribute as the discussion proceeds.

There is no formal assessment for this course. However, **all students are expected to attend, and to contribute to discussion**. Students' contribution may form an important part of the termly supervisory reports.

### Academic Prizes

MSc Modern South Asian Studies students are all eligible for the **Barbara Harriss-White Thesis Prize**. This will be awarded to the student who produces the best thesis. It will be judged by the Board of Examiners during the final Exam Board Meeting in September 2022. The winner will receive a £100 prize and a certificate.

# Teaching and Learning

## Organisation of Teaching and Learning

For the MSc in Modern South Asian Studies, lectures, seminars, classes and supervisions are organised and delivered by academic staff from the Oxford School of Global and Area Studies, the Faculty of Oriental Studies, the Departments of Social Anthropology, Politics and International Relations, and International Development and the Ashmolean Museum. Your college will provide you with pastoral care and support, and may also provide facilities, including IT provision, library space, membership of the Common Room or equivalent body, meals and, in some cases, housing.

Detailed information on the lectures and classes held for each module can be found in the Syllabus descriptions above. The size of lectures and classes on the Option papers will vary according to the numbers of students choosing particular Options. The Core Course classes are compulsory, and will be attended by all students on the MSc, as well as those in the first year of the MPhil in Modern South Asian Studies. Research Methods classes are also compulsory, but their size will vary according to students' choices.

Please see the University's policy on the recording of lectures and other formal teaching sessions at <https://academic.admin.ox.ac.uk/policies/recording-lectures-other-teaching-sessions>. Within OSGA, permission will not normally be granted for the recording of lectures and classes. Please see the **Undertaking Required by Modern South Asian Studies MSc/MPhil Students: Class Recording and use of Electronic Devices at Appendix 1 (p. 100)** which you are asked to agree to as part of the student declaration you will submit by Monday of week 1 of Michaelmas term.

The timetables for the three terms can be found on the next three pages. These may be subject to change. Any updates relating to the course as a whole (e.g. core course, research methods or seminar) will be communicated to you by email from the Course Administrator. Individual option convenors will inform their groups directly of changes affecting their options. Changes will also be announced on Canvas wherever possible.

If you have any issues with teaching or supervision please raise these as soon as possible so that they can be addressed promptly. Details of who to contact are provided on page 86 in the section on complaints and appeals.

Provisional Timetable for Michaelmas Term 2021

MODERN SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES TIMETABLE MICHAELMAS TERM 2021 (Provisional as at 04/10/2021)							
	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY		
09:00						09:00	
09:30						09:30	
10:00	<b>RM: Qual lecture</b> <i>various (NLT, St Ant's)</i>	<b>1st Yr Hindi Grammar</b> IB (OI)	<b>Education, State and Society in South Asia</b> UP (OSGA)	<b>Intro to written Urdu (weeks 1-3)</b> IB (OI)		<b>1st Yr Hindi Grammar</b> IB (OI)	<b>RM Qual Class (1)</b> UP/NM (OSGA)
10:30		<b>Literary Hindi</b> IB (OI)		<b>Old Hindi</b> IB (OI)	<b>1st Yr Hindi Practice</b> KP (OSGA)		
11:00							
11:30							
12:00							
12:30							
13:00							
13:30							
14:00	<b>Core Course Lecture (weeks 1-7, group tutorial week 8)</b> <i>various (Dahrendorf Rm, St Ant's)</i>	<b>South Asia Seminar (weeks 1-7 only)</b> <i>various Online via Zoom</i>	<b>Economic Development of South Asia 1947 to the present</b> TK <i>Online via Teams</i>		<b>Gender &amp; Society in India c. 1800 to the present</b> <i>(Room 114, OI)</i>	<b>Societies and Economies in India c. 1600-1800</b> IB/POH/AR <i>(Lect Rm 1, OI)</i>	
14:30							
15:00							
15:30							
16:00				<b>Other (Bengali, Gujarati, Marathi or Old Hindi)</b> IB (OI)	<b>Advanced Hindi</b> KP (OI)	<b>1st Yr Hindi Practice</b> KP (OI)	
16:30							
17:00							
17:30							
18:00							

Please note that this timetable is correct as at 4 October 2021 but may be subject to change.

Provisional Timetable for Hilary Term 2022

MODERN SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES TIMETABLE HILARY TERM 2022 (Provisional as at 04/10/2021)											
	MONDAY			TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
09:00											
09:30	RM: Qual methods LLH (wks 1-5) (LR 1, OI) AR/IB	RM: Quant lecture (wks 1-6) (NLT) TBC	RM: possible Research Proposal presentations (wks 7-8) various (TBC)	1st Yr Hindi Grammar IB (OI)	Anthropology of Buddhism DG (ISCA)	RM: poss Research Proposal presentations (wks 5-8) various (TBC)	1st Yr Hindi Grammar IB (OI)		RM: Quant class (wks 1-7) (OSGA) TK	RM: poss RP presentations (wk 8) various (TBC)	
10:00											10:30
11:00				Literary Hindi IB (OI)	Old Hindi IB (OI)	1st Yr Hindi Practice KP (OSGA)	Urdu prose text IB (OI)	Anthropology of South Asia KSD E (TBC) DG (ISCA)	International Relations of South Asia KSD E (TBC)	RM: poss RP presentations (wks 5-8) various (TBC)	
11:30	RM: possible Research Proposal presentations (wks 5-8) various (TBC)										
12:00											
12:30											
13:00											
13:30											
14:00											
14:30	Core Course Lecture (weeks 1-7, group tutorial week 8) various (Dahrendorf Rm, St Ant's)			South Asia Seminar (weeks 1-7 only) various Online via Zoom		Other (Bengali, Gujarati, Marathi or Old Hindi) IB (OI)		Trade & Exchange in South Asia MKL (Ashm)		Social History of Colonial India 1800-1947 AR (Room 114, OI)	
15:00											
15:30											
16:00											
16:30											
17:00	RM: Quant (computer labs) (wks 1-6) (TBC) JM			Themes in the History of Pakistan YK (OSGA)				Advanced Hindi KP (OI)		1st Yr Hindi Practice KP (OI)	
17:30											
18:00											

Please note this timetable is correct as at 4 October 2021 but may be subject to change.

Provisional Timetable for Trinity Term 2022

MODERN SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES TIMETABLE TRINITY TERM 2022 (Provisional as at 04/10/2021)							
	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY		
09:00						09:00	
09:30	<b>RM: Possible MPhil Research Proposal presentations</b> (wks 4-6) various (TBC)					09:30	
10:00		Intro to written Urdu (wks 1-3)	Urdu Prose Texts (wks 4-8)			10:00	
10:30		IB (OI)	IB (OI)			10:30	
11:00						11:00	
11:30		<b>Intermediate Hindi</b> (texts from the media) IB (OI)	<b>Old Hindi</b> (wks 1-6) IB (OI)	<b>Intermedi-ate Hindi Practice</b> KP (OI)	<b>Intro to written Urdu</b> (wks 1-3) IB (OI)	<b>Urdu prose texts</b> (wks 4-8) IB (OI)	
12:00							
12:30						12:30	
13:00						13:00	
13:30						13:30	
14:00						14:00	
14:30		<b>South Asia Seminar</b> (weeks 1-4 only) various (in-person?)				14:30	
15:00						15:00	
15:30						15:30	
16:00						16:00	
16:30				<b>Other (Bengali, Gujarati, Marathi or Old Hindi)</b> IB (OI)	<b>Advanced Hindi</b> KP (OI)	16:30	
17:00						17:00	
17:30						17:30	
18:00						18:00	

Please

note this timetable is correct as at 4 October 2021 but may be subject to change.

## Fieldwork

Many students will, as part of their course, be required to undertake fieldwork, but the COVID-19 emergency changed the University approach to fieldwork and travel activities and given the unpredictable nature of the foreseeable future, this approach will be reviewed regularly. Therefore, please check regularly on the “Coronavirus (COVID-19): Safety Office updates and advice webpage” <https://safety.admin.ox.ac.uk/covid-19-response> the University Position on fieldwork/travelling on university business. Fieldwork is considered as any research activity contributing to your academic studies, and approved by your department, which is carried out away from the University premises. This can be overseas or within the UK. The safety and welfare of its students is of paramount importance to the University. This includes fieldwork and there are a number of procedures that you must follow when preparing for and carrying out fieldwork.

### Preparation

Safe fieldwork is successful fieldwork. Thorough preparation can pre-empt many potential problems. When discussing your research with your supervisor please think about the safety implications of where you are going and what you are doing. Following this discussion and before your travel will be approved, you will be required to complete an Activity/Travel and Fieldwork Risk assessment form and COVID-19 Risk Assessment, including for travel within the UK. This requires you to set out the significant safety risks associated with your research, the arrangements in place to mitigate those risks and the contingency plans for if something goes wrong. There is an expectation that you will take out University travel insurance. Please note that following the coronavirus outbreak, University travel insurance is now available in accordance with the revised University policy on travel and you need to refer to the Insurance [Travel pages](#) and [Safety Office](#) pages for further information. Please note that your department also needs accurate information on where you are, and when and how to contact you while you are away. The activity/travel and fieldwork assessment process should help you to plan your fieldwork by thinking through arrangements and practicalities. The following website contains some fieldwork experiences which might be useful to refer to <https://socsci.web.ox.ac.uk/fieldworker-experiences>

### Training

Training is highly recommended as part of your preparation. Even if you are familiar with where you are going there may be risks associated with what you are doing.

### On-line research integrity course

The Research Integrity core course, accessible via [Weblearn](#), provides an introduction to good practice in research, outlining how University researchers can meet their responsibilities, setting out the key principles and practices of good research conduct and guiding learners through the lifecycle of a research project. In addition to the core course, research students conducting research involving human participants are required to complete the '[Research involving human participants](#)' module that explains what is required of researchers working with human participants, covering aspects of the review process as well as continuing responsibilities.

### **Departmental Fieldwork safety and Ethics awareness session (run annually by OSGA)**

This covers personal safety, risk assessment, planning tips and practicalities to prepare your ethics checklist. All students carrying out fieldwork are expected to attend this. This course is expected to be run online (TBC)

### **Social Sciences Division Research and Skills Training (run termly, TBC)**

<https://socsci.web.ox.ac.uk/welcome-to-researcher-development>

- **Introduction to Research Ethics at Oxford.** This termly session will give attendees an overview of the research ethics review process at Oxford. The trainer will also give you top tips on how to write good research ethics applications.
- **Overseas Fieldwork Safety.** An overview of the approval process and how to plan for safe fieldwork and document this in a suitable and sufficient risk assessment
- **Vicarious trauma workshops.** For research on traumatic or distressing topic areas or contexts.

### **Safety Office courses (run termly, TBC)**

<http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/safety/overseastravelfieldwork/>

<https://safety.admin.ox.ac.uk/training-a-z#widget-id-1530871>

- Emergency First Aid for Fieldworkers.
- Fieldwork and overseas travel risk assessment for Fieldworkers and travellers - Pre-recorded online training presentation

### **Useful Links**

- More information on fieldwork and a number of useful links can be found on the Social Sciences divisional website: <https://socsci.web.ox.ac.uk/research-fieldwork>

### **Fieldwork preparation step by step (including ethical review)**

There are a number of procedures that you must follow when preparing for and carrying out fieldwork.

1. **Discuss your research plans with your supervisor.** Please think about the safety implications of where you are going and what you are doing.
2. If your [research involves human participants](#) (FAQs, Q.1A) it will be subject to **ethical review**. Please complete the relevant Central University Research Ethics Committee checklist (**CUREC 1A or CUREC 2**) and submit it (signed via email, together with all the completed supporting documents by the deadline shown in the table below) via email to the Departmental Research Ethics Committees, OSGA DREC at [curec@area.ox.ac.uk](mailto:curec@area.ox.ac.uk). Please note that the application must include evidence that you have completed the online training course 'Research and Integrity' and the module 'Research involving human participants'.

The COVID-19 emergency changed the University approach on research involving human participants, therefore please check the most updated "COVID-19: CUREC guidance on

research involving human participants” on

<https://researchsupport.admin.ox.ac.uk/governance/ethics/coronavirus>.

Please note that ethical approval can only be granted to applications that have been submitted before the research has started. Once approved the applicant will receive a confirmation letter that includes the CUREC reference number to quote in the consent forms and all other documents used during the research. CUREC forms are updated regularly to reflect current practice, so please download the most up-to-date version of the checklist from the [Governance and Integrity webpage](#). Please note that if your proposed research will involve face-to-face interactions with human participants, you will need to notify the research ethics committee that granted approval during the COVID-19 pandemic before undertaking any recruitment for face-to-face interaction with participants, provided that the research can be conducted in a COVID-secure way and is subject to appropriate risk assessment.

3. Before starting to complete the **Activity/Travel and Fieldwork Risk Assessment form and the COVID-19 risk assessment form (Template available on CANVAS)**, please check the University position on fieldwork/travelling on university business on the “Coronavirus (COVID-19): Safety Office updates and advice webpage” <https://safety.admin.ox.ac.uk/covid-19-response>. The COVID-19 emergency changed the University approach to fieldwork and travel activities and given the unpredictable nature of the foreseeable future, this approach will be reviewed regularly.

The preparation of **Activity/Travel and Fieldwork Risk Assessment form and the COVID-19 risk assessment form** require you to set out the significant safety risks associated with your research. In addition to the University policies on [Safety in fieldwork](#) and [Overseas travel](#), please check the UK Government Foreign and Commonwealth and Development Office <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice> and check the arrangements in place to mitigate those risks and the contingency plans in case something goes wrong. Please submit the signed version of the risk assessments via email to [travel@area.ox.ac.uk](mailto:travel@area.ox.ac.uk) by Friday week 3 of each term. The signature should be wet-ink and scanned. Alternatively, the approval can be provided via email. To do this, please ensure that the signature sections in the document are dated and state that approval is via email (otherwise it looks unapproved) and send the approval message from the official Oxford email address of the approver. Please see the table below for all details about Deadlines / Signatures required / Modalities of delivery.

Please note that if you plan to undertake fieldwork in countries which the UK Foreign and Commonwealth and Development Office “advise against all or all but essential travel to” and/or undertake research that is deemed to be high risk, your plans will be referred to and reviewed by the University Safety Office. Permission for travel to these areas is at the Head of School’s discretion, taking into account whether the academic merits of the research justify the risks involved. Please be aware that permission to travel to these areas under FCDO advisement or high risk research may be refused. The approval process in the latter case may take at least six weeks, so please apply before the termly deadline if this is the case. Please note that the Activity/Travel and Fieldwork Risk Assessment form and the COVID-19 risk

assessment form must be submitted for fieldwork in the UK and even if you are already based in the country where the fieldwork will take place.

4. University staff and students are eligible for [University travel insurance](#) when they travel on University business. Insurance is contingent on having an approved Activity/Travel and Fieldwork Risk Assessment, Covid-19 Risk Assessment and compliance with the University policies on [Safety in fieldwork](#) and [Overseas travel](#). Following the coronavirus outbreak, University travel insurance is now available in accordance with the revised University policy on travel which includes the completion of a mandatory Covid-19 risk assessment. Please refer to the Insurance [Travel pages](#) and [Safety Office](#) pages for further information. Please note with immediate effect, the Cancellation, Curtailment, Change of itinerary, Rearrangement and Replacement element of the policy will not operate in relation to Covid-19 losses. Therefore, any future cancellation costs, or additional travel/subsistence/accommodation expenses etc. incurred as a result of Coronavirus will not be covered. Once you have received a confirmation that your Activity/Travel and Fieldwork Risk Assessment and Covid-19 Risk Assessment have been approved, please complete your **Travel Insurance Application** on <https://travelinsurance.admin.ox.ac.uk>. It will require your Oxford Single Sign-On credentials. You should upload a copy of the approved and signed risk assessments to the platform. In preparing your Travel Insurance application, please indicate that you require supervisor approval (default set to yes) and enter either the SSO or email address of the supervisor to search – then select the appropriate person from the list. The supervisor will receive an email notification that there is an application that requires their authorisation.

There are certain areas and activities that require referral to the Insurance Office prior to travel. Please refer to <https://finance.admin.ox.ac.uk/referral-countries-and-activities> for the most up to date list. The Insurance Office require at least six weeks' notice for these referrals. The required referral is done through the [online application process](#) (<https://travelinsurance.admin.ox.ac.uk>)

The University's insurance broker has a global trade sanctions policy which must be followed. Under the terms of this policy, activities which have a connection to certain countries or regions automatically have to be referred to their legal/compliance teams. Please refer to: <https://finance.admin.ox.ac.uk/referral-countries-and-activities> for the most up to date list.

If students wish to travel to an area that requires referral, planned fieldwork to these areas should be discussed at the start of your course with your supervisor and flagged with the School ([travel@area.ox.ac.uk](mailto:travel@area.ox.ac.uk)) as soon as possible.

Please, note that:

- Travel is approved at the discretion of the Head of School and in some circumstances may be refused due to the level of risk;
- Insurance can only be arranged if travel is deemed essential and it is deemed safe for you to travel by the Head of School;
- University insurance will only cover you if the Safety Office has advised on the suitability of your risk assessment and your travel has been approved by the Head of School.

## Amendments to risk assessments and CUREC application

Risk assessments must be kept up to date and reviewed regularly; changes in a country's status must be addressed and any action taken in line with official advice. If any change related to your activity/travel plan and/or the research design and methodology related to a CUREC 1A or CUREC 2 occurs after their approvals, request of amendment must be submitted to the Department for review and approval. Details about the amendment procedures and the related template are available on the Canvas site for Research Methods, in "Resources for Fieldwork" <https://canvas.ox.ac.uk/courses/126619>

**Please check for updates and additional supporting documents on the Canvas site for Research Methods, in "Resources for Fieldwork" before starting to complete your forms.**

### Deadlines / Signatures required / Modalities of delivery

	CUREC 1A	CUREC 2	Activity/Travel and Fieldwork RiskAssessment form & Covid-19 Risk Assessment form	Travel Insurance Form
Deadlines	Friday of week 3 of each term	Friday of week 3 of each term <b>(Or at least 60 days before research is due to start, if sooner)</b>	Friday of week 3 of each term	Once both the Activity/Travel and Fieldwork Risk Assessment and COVID-19 Risk Assessment applications have been approved
Signatures required	Student, Supervisor and Head of Unit (Professor Nayanika Mathur) signature as Departmental endorsement. <b>Option 1: direct email endorsements</b> Each of the signatories should submit an email to <a href="mailto:curec@area.ox.ac.uk">curec@area.ox.ac.uk</a> from a University of Oxford email address, indicating their acceptance of the responsibilities listed in the Endorsement Section of the application <b>Option 2: signatures</b> Please scan the signed form and email it to <a href="mailto:curec@area.ox.ac.uk">curec@area.ox.ac.uk</a> as a PDF. <b>Pasted images of signatures cannot be accepted.</b>		Student, Supervisor <b>Option 1: direct email endorsements to</b> <a href="mailto:travel@area.ox.ac.uk">travel@area.ox.ac.uk</a> <b>Option 2: signatures</b> Please scan the signed form and email it to <a href="mailto:travel@area.ox.ac.uk">travel@area.ox.ac.uk</a>	Student, Supervisor
How to deliver it	Via email to <a href="mailto:curec@area.ox.ac.uk">curec@area.ox.ac.uk</a>		Via email to <a href="mailto:travel@area.ox.ac.uk">travel@area.ox.ac.uk</a>	Submission via the online system <a href="#">TIRS</a> (*)
How long the approval process may take	30 days	At least 60 days	30 days	6 weeks
For queries	<a href="mailto:curec@area.ox.ac.uk">curec@area.ox.ac.uk</a>		<a href="mailto:travel@area.ox.ac.uk">travel@area.ox.ac.uk</a>	

(\*) Supervisor approval required via TIRS (please leave default set to YES)

## Useful links for fieldwork documents preparation:

- COVID-19 Guidance  
Safety Office updates and advice: <https://safety.admin.ox.ac.uk/covid-19-response>  
CUREC guidance on research involving human participants:  
<https://researchsupport.admin.ox.ac.uk/governance/ethics/coronavirus>  
Remote work with participant data:  
<https://researchsupport.admin.ox.ac.uk/covid-19#widget-id-2202626>
- Policy on the ethical conduct of research involving human participants and personal data:  
<https://researchsupport.web.ox.ac.uk/governance/ethics/committees/policy>  
<https://researchsupport.web.ox.ac.uk/governance/ethics>
- Download CUREC checklist:  
<https://researchsupport.admin.ox.ac.uk/governance/ethics/apply/sshidrec>
- Recommended templates, such as for oral / written consent forms:  
<https://researchsupport.admin.ox.ac.uk/governance/ethics/resources>
- FAQs and Glossary  
<https://researchsupport.admin.ox.ac.uk/governance/ethics/faqs-glossary>
- Recommended Best Practices: Guidance documents approved by CUREC:  
<https://researchsupport.admin.ox.ac.uk/governance/ethics/resources/bpg>
- Policy on the Management of Data Supporting Research Outputs  
<http://researchdata.ox.ac.uk/university-of-oxford-policy-on-the-management-of-data-supporting-research-outputs/> (See section 4.0 Relationship with existing policies)
- Archives and other options in preserving and sharing research data  
<http://researchdata.ox.ac.uk/preserving-your-data/archives-and-other-options/>
- Backup, storage and security of data:  
<http://researchdata.ox.ac.uk/home/managing-your-data-at-oxford/storage-and-backup/>
- Research Data Oxford website: <http://researchdata.ox.ac.uk/>

## Checklist of documents for fieldwork preparation:

Please make sure that:

Your CUREC application is signed (or endorsed by email) by you, your supervisor and the Head of the Unit (for Modern South Asian Studies this is Professor Nayanika Mathur, as Director of CSASP)	
All the supporting documents are attached to the CUREC application (e.g. recruitment and advertisement material, written information or, if applicable, an outline oral information script, written consent forms and/or oral information script, interview questions, or a preliminary scope of questions, or a sample questionnaire, etc.)	

Your CUREC application has been sent by email to <a href="mailto:curec@area.ox.ac.uk">curec@area.ox.ac.uk</a> from your official ox.ac.uk email account	
Your Activity/Travel and Fieldwork Risk Assessment and COVID-19 Risk Assessment are signed, dated and forwarded via email from you to your supervisor and from your supervisor to <a href="mailto:travel@area.ox.ac.uk">travel@area.ox.ac.uk</a> (using official Oxford email addresses)	
Your Travel Insurance Application has been submitted online via <a href="https://travelinsurance.admin.ox.ac.uk">https://travelinsurance.admin.ox.ac.uk</a>	

There will be a compulsory session on CUREC and travel arrangements held for Modern South Asian Studies students (probably at some point during Michaelmas term (TBC). After this session, students will be required to complete a declaration acknowledging that they understand they are primarily responsible for ensuring all University and departmental processes and permissions relating to fieldwork, CUREC, activity/travel and fieldwork risk assessments, COVID-19 risk assessments and insurance are completed at least 30 days before fieldwork commences (earlier if CUREC 2, as it requires at least 60 days), and that fieldwork or any research-related travel cannot be undertaken without the completion of all necessary paperwork and the granting of official permission.

### Fieldwork funding and Travel Grants

There is no departmental funding towards students' fieldwork on the MSc in Modern South Asian Studies.

**Scholarship funds.** Some students on scholarships will find that they are given, or can apply for, funding to cover fieldwork. Although this is often not the case, students are advised to check, especially where the scholarship comes from outside of the University.

**College funds.** Some colleges provide travel funds to their students, but note that this varies considerably throughout Oxford. Information about this can usually be found in the College prospectus. Deadlines for these funds vary and the amount distributed is often limited so check and apply early.

**Other funding sources.** Students may find other sources of funding available inside and outside of Oxford, However, it is important to note that these prizes and awards tend to be very competitive.

**Savings.** Students determined do to fieldwork who are unable to access college and other funds should draw up a fieldwork budget as early as possible and calculate whether or not they can save sufficient funds to make their travel feasible (bearing in mind that some costs, such as food, would be incurred whether in Oxford or in the field).

If students conclude that they cannot afford fieldwork, they should discuss this with their supervisor as soon as possible, as a change of topic may be required.

## **Expectations of study and student workload**

*As a student, you are responsible for your own academic progress.* The learning environment of Oxford and the MSc in Modern South Asian Studies are special; they require a lot from you but also offer a potentially deeply rewarding experience.

### **Hours Required of Study**

This is entirely dependent on yourselves as graduate students, as you will be from different backgrounds and be bringing different experiences to your study, and so you will find that some concepts and work will require more effort (both in terms of comprehension and in hours put in) than you may expect. Success on the course requires sustained effort across the academic year, with term-times being typically prioritised with preparation for, and participation in, course lectures, class presentations, class discussion, essay reviews, and thesis supervisions. The vacation periods are not holidays as such but instead represent extended periods in the academic year when private study and thesis research can be balanced alongside taking a well-earned break during national festivals such as Christmas and Easter in the absence of lectures and classes. A typical week during term times will involve around 40 hours of study, including two to six hours of scheduled contact hours, two hours for the weekly seminar and at least thirty hours of independent work. During peak times around exams and the deadline for the thesis, the amount of work could be higher depending on your own study habits.

If you are concerned about the amount of time you are studying, please discuss this with either your general supervisor or the Course Director.

If you are considering paid work please refer to this link *Paid work guidelines for Oxford graduate students* <https://academic.admin.ox.ac.uk/policies/paid-work-guidelines-graduate-students>

# Assessment

## Assessment structure

- **Core Course Essay assessment.** One maximum 5,000 word essay. The essay questions will be issued via Canvas by Monday of week 1 of Michaelmas term and should be submitted via Inspera by **12.00 noon on Monday of week 1 of Trinity term.** (15% of your final grade).
- **Research Methods assessment** (15% of your final grade, comprising two parts, weighted equally so each equivalent to 7.5% of your final grade)
  1. **Qualitative methods take-home test:** to be issued via Canvas on Monday of week 8 of Michaelmas term and to be submitted via Inspera by **12.00 noon on Monday of week 9 of Michaelmas term.**
  2. **Quantitative analysis take-home test:** to be issued via Canvas on Monday of week 8 of Hilary term and to be submitted via Inspera by **12.00 noon on Monday of week 9 of Hilary term.**

**OR**

**Qualitative Methods in Literature, Language and History\*:** 2,500-word essay to be issued via Canvas on Monday of week 4 and submitted via Inspera by **12.00 noon on Monday of week 9 of Hilary term.**

(\*NB this is a new assessment from 2020-21, and combines 'Qualitative and Historical Methods' and 'Qualitative Methods: Literature and Language' into a single module with a paper which will offer questions on both methods.)

**Option papers assessment.** Most Option papers will be formally assessed in the final examinations at the end of Trinity term via a three-hour examination (in 2021-22 all non-language option exams will be run online via Inspera as open-book exams, in "typed mode"). For non-language option examinations, you will answer three questions in three hours, from a choice of at least eight questions. (Each three-hour examination, or equivalent option assessment, represents 20% of your final grade).

In addition, students must prepare two 2,500-word essays for each Option paper, to be delivered either by email or in hard copy (as requested by Option convenor) ahead of the scheduled tutorial. Deadlines for the Option paper essays will be set by the Option teachers. The essays are non-assessed; they do not count towards your final degree grade. However, all essays will be marked and commented on by the relevant Option paper convenors during an individual or small-group supervision, and the annotated essay and/or typed comments will be returned to the student at the end of the tutorial. The essay will not be given a numerical mark, though the tutor will give a ballpark indication if asked (e.g. low 50s/high 60s/over 70 etc).

Please note that options which are directly run by other courses or departments may be assessed by different methods. Of the MSAS options described above (pp. 26-40) this applies to the Anthropology of South Asia and the Anthropology of Buddhism, both run by

the School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography (SAME). Assessment for both these options is by submission of a 4000-word essay and 1000-word book review due for submission by 12.00 noon on Thursday of week 2 of Trinity term. For further details please refer to the department concerned.

- 'Advanced Language' Options assessment

(i) Language Option: Hindi

There will be a three-hour paper in Hindi translation, comprehension and composition consisting of three parts, all of which must be attempted. Part 1 will attract 20% of the overall marks for this paper. Parts 2 and 3 will attract 40% each.

Part 1 will be two seen passages in Hindi to be translated into English. Texts will be chosen from Snell and Weightman: *Teach Yourself Complete Hindi* as well as from texts read in the class and listed on Canvas. Both passages must be attempted.

Part 2 will be two unseen passages in Hindi. The first is to be translated into English and the second passage is to be summarised in Hindi in 100-125 words. Both passages must be attempted.

Part 3 will be a composition in Hindi of approximately 300 words. Candidates will choose one topic from a choice of three given.

(ii) Language Option: Literary Hindi

This three-hour paper consists of three parts, all of which must be attempted. Passages in parts 1 and 2 will contain no more than 20 lines in Hindi.

Part 1: Seen translation from Hindi. Candidates will be required to translate two seen passages of Hindi into English. The first text will count 25%, the second 20%. The second text will be accompanied with a question on the grammar, style or the literary context to be answered in English (5%).

Part 2: Unseen translation from Hindi. (25%). Candidates will be required to translate an unseen passage of Hindi into English.

Part 3: Text commentary in Hindi (25%). Candidates will be required to write an essay in Hindi commenting on a set text or comparing a pair of seen texts. The essay in Hindi should be between 250 and 300 words.

(iii) Language Option: Urdu Prose Texts

This three-hour paper consists of three parts, all of which must be attempted. Passages in parts 1 and 2 will contain no more than 20 lines in Urdu.

Part 1: Seen translation from Urdu. Candidates will be required to translate two seen passages of Urdu into English. The first text will count 25%, the second 20%. The second text will be accompanied with a question on the grammar, style or the literary context to be answered in English (5%).

Part 2: Unseen translation from Urdu. (25%). Candidates will be required to translate an unseen passage of Urdu into English.

Part 3: Text commentary in Urdu (25%). Candidates will be required to write an essay in Urdu commenting on a set text or comparing a pair of seen texts. The essay in Urdu should be between 250 and 300 words.

**(iv) Language Option: Classical Hindi**

This paper consists of four passages for translation from Hindi into English. Three of these will be selected from the Hindi texts taught during the course. The fourth will be a passage of unseen Hindi. Each of the passages will contain no more than 20 lines in Hindi. Two of the passages will be accompanied by questions on the grammar, style or the literary context. None of the passages will be longer than twenty lines. Passages without questions will account for 25% of the final mark, those with questions for 20% and the answers to the questions 5%.

**(v) Language Option: Other (Bengali/Gujarati/Marathi)**

There will be a three-hour paper in the South Asian language translation, comprehension and composition consisting of three parts, all of which must be attempted. Part 1 will attract 20% of the overall marks for this paper. Parts 2 and 3 will attract 40% each.

Part 1 will be two seen passages in the South Asian language to be translated into English. Texts will be chosen from texts read in the class and listed on Canvas. Both passages must be attempted.

Part 2 will be two unseen passages in the South Asian language. The first is to be translated into English and the second passage is to be summarised in the target South Asian language in 100-125 words. Both passages must be attempted.

Part 3 will be a composition in the target South Asian language of approximately 300 words. Candidates will choose one topic from a choice of three given.

**(v) Language Option: Other (Persian)**

Assessment for the Advanced Language Option: Persian, will be as set out in the regulations for Persian Studies run by the Faculty of Oriental Studies. If taking this option, please refer to your course teacher for further details.

**The use of a dictionary is not permitted in any of the language examinations.**

- **Thesis assessment:** 12,000-word maximum thesis to be submitted by **12 noon of the weekday on or nearest to 1 September** in the year in which you have taken your examinations. (30% of your final grade). In 2022 this will be **Thursday 1 September 2022**.

## Feedback on learning and assessment

### Feedback on formative assessment and other informal feedback

Formative assessment does not contribute to the overall outcome of your degree and has a developmental purpose designed to help you learn more effectively.

In addition to informal feedback provided during classes and other interactions with teaching staff, (e.g. meetings with general or thesis supervisors) all students on taught Masters programmes can expect to receive formal written feedback on at least one designated piece of formative assessment during their first term. The purpose of this feedback is to:

- provide guidance, especially to those for whom extended pieces of writing are an unfamiliar form of assessment;
- indicate areas of strength and weakness in relation to the assessment task;
- provide students with an indication of the expectations and standards towards which they are working.

In the Oxford School of Global and Area Studies students studying for the MSc in Modern South Asian Studies will receive formal written feedback via tutorial on their two unassessed essays during Michaelmas term.

Students will receive similar formal written feedback via tutorial on the two unassessed essays for their second option during Hilary term. Students taking Advanced Language Options will receive feedback as an integral part of the weekly classes.

### Feedback on summative assessment

Summative assessment contributes to your degree result and is used to evaluate formally the extent to which you have succeeded in meeting the published assessment criteria for your programme of study.

The purpose of feedback on summative assessment e.g. theses and dissertations, is to provide a review of the work and suggestions for improvements and future development of the research topic to enable students to develop their work for doctoral study, if appropriate. Students will receive formal written feedback on their thesis submitted in the final term of their course via email within four weeks of the publication of their final result.

In addition, students will also be provided with formal written feedback, accompanied by their unconfirmed marks, via email on the following elements of summative assessment:

- the Research Methods qualitative take-home test (submitted on Monday of week 9 of Michaelmas term) by Friday of week 4 of Hilary term
- the Core Course Essay, (submitted on Monday of week 1 of Trinity term) by Friday of week 8 of Trinity term.

The marks provided are provisional and may be reviewed and amended at the final meeting of the Examination Board.

Unconfirmed marks (but no written feedback) will be provided via email for the following elements of summative assessment:

- the Research Methods quantitative take-home test (submitted on Monday of week 9 of Hilary term) by Friday of week 4 of Trinity term
- the Research Methods Qualitative Methods in Literature, Language and History essay (submitted on Monday of week 9 of Hilary term) by Friday of week 4 of Trinity term

Other information about assessment standards

Students are advised to read the internal and external examiners' reports for recent past cohorts, available on Canvas, which can provide valuable insights and contribute to students' preparations for examinations and other forms of assessment.

### Examination Conventions

Examination conventions are the formal record of the specific assessment standards for the course or courses to which they apply. They set out how your examined work will be marked and how the resulting marks will be used to arrive at a final result and classification of your award. They include information on: marking scales, marking and classification criteria, scaling of marks, progression, resits, use of viva voce examinations, penalties for late submission, and penalties for over-length work.

The examination conventions must be published to prospective candidates not less than one whole term before the examination takes place or, where assessment takes place in the first term of a course, at the beginning of that term.

The Examination conventions for the MSc in Modern South Asian Studies are available on Canvas: [https://canvas.ox.ac.uk/courses/125653/pages/examination-conventions?module\\_item\\_id=1357358](https://canvas.ox.ac.uk/courses/125653/pages/examination-conventions?module_item_id=1357358)

### Submitting assessed work

All assessed coursework:

1. Must be presented in size 12 font.
2. Must be double spaced
3. Must have a bibliography that consists only of references that are cited in the text. The section title should be 'References Cited'. Please see Canvas for details of acceptable citation styles: [https://canvas.ox.ac.uk/courses/125653/pages/study-skills-for-modern-south-asian-studies-academic-referencing-styles?module\\_item\\_id=1357346](https://canvas.ox.ac.uk/courses/125653/pages/study-skills-for-modern-south-asian-studies-academic-referencing-styles?module_item_id=1357346)
4. Must include the word count at the end of the text. Penalties apply for excesses (see below, page 64).
5. Must include a completed Cover Sheet (please download this from Canvas).

6. As part of submission via Inspira, students will be required to agree to the University's standard declaration of authorship. In the case of any submissions made by another means, students must complete the University's standard 'Declaration of Authorship' form.

All assessed (summative) work must be submitted electronically as a single pdf file via Inspira no later than the deadline stipulated. Penalties apply for late submission. Remember, you can submit your coursework not only on the day of the deadline but any date before the deadline too. If you find that you have submitted the wrong file, you are entitled to withdraw and resubmit once only before the original (or any extended) submission deadline. If you wish to withdraw and resubmit after the deadline has expired then you will have to apply to the Proctors for permission.

Whilst the submission to Inspira should be in pdf, students are also requested to email an identical copy of their work in Word to the Course Administrator on [south.asia@area.ox.ac.uk](mailto:south.asia@area.ox.ac.uk) by the same deadline (to be used for checking word count etc).

Assessed work must be anonymized, identifying authorship only by **candidate number**. Please note that this is not the same as your student number and does not appear on your student card. **You must not put your name on any assessed coursework or examination.**

Please note that you are normally required to be resident in Oxford for the duration of the MSc. Exceptions will be made for students who are unable to travel to Oxford in Michaelmas term due to COVID-19 but permission must be obtained from the Proctors. For further details of this system, please consult your college in the first instance. If you need to go away for a particular reason during term time or if you anticipate missing classes, you must discuss this with your supervisor and College and let them know the reason for your absence.

### Excess Words

Adhering to word limits is a non-negotiable academic convention and submissions that exceed the prescribed limit will be subject to deductions (see Exam Conventions for further details). You must declare the word count on all coursework and email a copy of your submission in Word to the Course Administrator (or supply on a USB stick) by the deadline so this can be verified (see section on 'How to submit assessed work' above).

#### **What is included in the word count?**

Headings, subheadings, footnotes, endnotes, and captions for pictures are all included in the word count. Numbers and dates count as words. Please note that information imported into your essay (such as tables formatted as a jpeg) will not necessarily be picked up by the automated word count software. However, such material still counts so please count the words manually or consider providing this information in an appendix.

#### **What is NOT included in the word count?**

The title page, table of contents, glossaries, lists of abbreviations, notes about translations, abstract, page numbers, references listed in a bibliography at the end of the work, appendices, or any words that feature in photographs themselves.

Please see the Exam Conventions on Canvas for details of the penalties that will be applied to overlength work. **Please note that being even one word over the maximum permitted word length for an assignment will result in a penalty being applied to your mark for that assignment.**

### Late Submissions

Timely submission of all assessed work is vitally important. Unexcused lateness without good reason can damage your final degree grade. If you miss the submission deadline for any piece of assessed work, your work may be subject to substantial deductions.

Please see the Exam Conventions on Canvas for details of the penalties that will be applied to late submissions of essays and open-book exams.

### Special Circumstances and Extensions

Not all lateness is automatically penalised. It is well recognized that illness, bereavement and other serious personal circumstances can affect the quality or prompt submission of assessed work. **It is vital that you keep your supervisor and College informed of any serious adverse personal circumstances that may affect your work** (such as illness, illness or death of a close relative or partner, or other personal issues).

If there are factors **beyond your control** which make it impossible for you to submit work on time you must let your supervisor and your College Tutor know **as soon as possible**. Permission to submit assessed work after the stipulated deadline is granted only by the Proctors. Proctors are University officers, elected annually from the academic staff, who ensure that the University rules are observed and that examinations are fairly conducted. Requests for extension of time must be made before a deadline has passed. If you have a short-term illness requiring an extension of up to 14 days, you should use the self certification extension request form available from <https://www.proctors.ox.ac.uk/forms>. Extensions for other reasons or for longer than 14 days can **only be made by your college on your behalf**. If you want to formally apply to submit late OR if you fail to submit on time and want to apply for retrospective permission to submit after the missed deadline, you need to approach your College Senior Tutor or the Tutor for Graduates in your College as soon as you can. **You may need to provide medical certificates, as well as supporting letters/emails from your supervisor and the Course Director. With supporting documentation, the College will then apply on your behalf to the Proctors.** Supervisors, the Course Director and the Course Administrator cannot grant permission for extensions of deadlines, only the Proctors can do so, on request from the student (self certification) or their College.

Please consider carefully whether your circumstances are (or were) significant enough to justify the lateness. Mitigating circumstances are only considered if they are serious and exceptional (computer problems, printer failures or heavy workloads are not regarded as serious difficulties).

Final decisions rest with the Proctors. You can be reasonably confident, however, that if your request provides good reasons, if it is well documented and/or supported by your College,

supervisor and Course Director, and the degree of lateness is proportionate to the reasons for the delay, then lateness penalties will be lifted.

You do not have to apply to the Proctors for deadline extensions for non-assessed work (i.e. for the 2500-word option essays). For non-assessed essays, contact your Option Convenor (or substitute tutor, if applicable) to request an extension, if you have a good reason for it. Missing a deadline or late submission of non-assessed work is also treated seriously and penalties apply as normal. If you have legitimate grounds, and you wish to request more time to complete one of your Option essays, you must contact the convenor of the option in question **before** the deadline passes.

You should always speak to your supervisor and/or College if you are having problems or if you think you may not be able to complete coursework or meet a deadline.

### Degree Regulations and Examinations 2021-22

The University Examination Regulations lays down the official framework for all courses and examinations, and for procedures to be followed when unusual circumstances arise. Students are recommended to make reference to the online regulations first and consult their supervisor or the Course Director if they are still uncertain.

The current Examination Regulations for the MSc in Modern South Asian Studies can be found at <https://examregs.admin.ox.ac.uk/Regulation?code=mosbcimodesoutasiastud&srchYear=2021&srchTerm=1&year=2021&term=1>.

### Good academic practice and avoiding plagiarism

The University's definition of plagiarism is:

Plagiarism is presenting someone else's work or ideas as your own, with or without their consent, by incorporating it into your work without full acknowledgement. All published and unpublished material, whether in manuscript, printed or electronic form, is covered under this definition.

Plagiarism may be intentional or reckless, or unintentional. Under the regulations for examinations, intentional or reckless plagiarism is a disciplinary offence.

For more information, please see the Oxford Students website guidance on plagiarism ([www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/guidance/skills/plagiarism](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/guidance/skills/plagiarism)), and more specific guidance on academic good practice and topics such as time management, note-taking, referencing, research and library skills and information literacy can be found on the Oxford Students skills webpage ([www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/guidance/skills](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/guidance/skills))

Oxford uses anti-plagiarism software that allows papers to be submitted electronically to find whether parts of a document match material which can be found on the web, are copied from published journals and periodicals, or which have been previously submitted. All assessed work is checked for plagiarism.

## Online tests

MSc Modern South Asian Studies students are required to take the **Oxford on-line plagiarism test** (see 2. Below) and submit the completed certificate by email to the Course Administrator by the end of noughth week of Michaelmas term (**Friday 8 October**).

These tests are an easy and practical way of gauging your understanding of plagiarism and checking your citation practice. You should complete the following:

1. Review the materials on the University's Canvas course "Plagiarism Awareness for Students" <https://canvas.ox.ac.uk/courses/83663>
2. Next, complete the Oxford test available via the [SkillsPortal web site](https://weblearn.ox.ac.uk/portal/site/:skills:generic:avoidplag) (<https://weblearn.ox.ac.uk/portal/site/:skills:generic:avoidplag>)
3. Submit the completed certificate to the Course Administrator **by the end of noughth week of Michaelmas term (Friday 8 October)**. Please note that no written work for the MSc cohort will be marked until the plagiarism test has been completed.

If you have any queries about the tests or any other aspect of plagiarism, please ask your supervisor for advice.

## Entering for University Examinations and Alternative Examination Arrangements

Information on entering your University examinations and making alternative examination arrangements can be found at <http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/exams>

1. Check your core assessment units<sup>1</sup>

Your core assessment units will be displayed in Student Self Service on your Academic and Assessment Information page automatically when you complete your University registration. There are no entry forms for these examinations. Inform your college or department if there are any errors. Examination start dates are provisional and are listed as week commencing. This means the examination will be expected to start some time during the particular week. Although every effort will be made to adhere to these, you should bear in mind that the official start date for each examination will be found in the published timetables

<https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/exams/timetables?wssl=1>.

2. Complete your examination entry for optional assessment units

If you are taking examinations (including both online open-book exams and formal written exams in an examination hall, as well as submitted assessments) this year and you are required to select

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<sup>1</sup> NB 'core assessment units' in this context refers to all the elements of the course that are compulsory, which in the case of the MSc Modern South Asian Studies includes the core course essay, the qualitative take-home test and the thesis.

the options you wish to take, you will be invited by email to enter for your examinations when the examination entry window for your examination opens. The email invitation will ask you to log in to Student Self Service to complete your optional examination entry assessment selections by a given date. Your selections will be validated and confirmed by a series of display screens and you will be able to log back in and change your choices within the examination entry window as many times as you wish. **The deadline is midnight on Thursday of week 8 of Michaelmas term and if you miss this deadline (or wish to change your options after the deadline) you will be charged a late entry fee** (see point 5 below).

### 3. Find your candidate number

You can locate your candidate number on the Academic and Assessment Information page in Student Self Service or by looking on the top of your individual timetable.

### 4. Check your timetable

Students will find their personal examination timetables under the link, 'Examination Timetable', in the My Exams section of Student Self Service. Until their timetables are available, the screen will display no examinations information.

### 5. Changing your options

If you do not enter by the required deadline for your course then you will need to pay a late entry fee. Once the fee has been received by the Academic Records Office, they will open the examination entry window for a limited time for you to complete your entry and send you an email to advise you of this. Please note that if you do not complete your entry by this deadline then you will need to pay a further late entry fee and the process be repeated.

### 6. Withdrawal from supplementary subjects / additional options / additional essays / theses

If you have entered for any assessments that are additional to the requirements of your examination, but have subsequently decided not to pursue them, then you must inform your college office, who in turn will inform the Academic Records Office, prior to either the examination date for written examinations or the submission date for essays / theses. If you fail to do this then you may be subject to a late change of option fee.

### 7. Withdrawal from examinations

If you are considering withdrawal from examinations you should speak to your college tutor and / or senior tutor, or a member of your college's welfare team, to ensure that withdrawal is the appropriate option. Your senior tutor will notify the Academic Records Office and Chair of Examiners. You may withdraw either before attempting any papers or subject to the college's approval before taking the last written paper and may apply to re-enter on a later occasion. The regulations do not allow you to withdraw after the written part of the examination is complete (i.e., by the conclusion of the last paper for which you are entered or by the time a dissertation or other written material is due to be submitted, whichever is the later).

## Examination Dates or timetables

Examination timetables are published no later than 5 weeks before the start of the examination. Students' personal examination timetables will be made available to them on the Student Self Service system (and/or via Inspera) at least two weeks before their first exam. Examinations for the MSc in Modern South Asian Studies are expected to take place in week 9 of Trinity term but some may take place earlier than this and it is also possible that exams may continue into week 10. For further information please see

<https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/exams/timetables>.

## Sitting your examinations

For general information about sitting your exams go to *the Oxford Students website*

([www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/exams/guidance](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/exams/guidance)).

All students will be expected to sit three-hour written examinations in English in their chosen subjects.

## Dress code for sitting examinations at Oxford

Traditionally, all members of the University are required to wear academic dress with *subfusc* clothing when attending any university examination, i.e.:

Men: A dark suit and socks, black shoes, a white bow tie, and plain white shirt and collar.

Women: A dark skirt or trousers, a white blouse, black tie, black stockings and shoes, and dark coat if desired.

For a full description of academic dress please refer to

<https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/dress?wssl=1>

**However, it is obviously not applicable to online open-book exams, and due to COVID-19 restrictions, the dress code was relaxed in 2019-20 even for written exams sat at the Exam Schools. You should therefore check nearer the time whether it will be required in Trinity term 2022 (if applicable).**

## The Examination Schools

Any written examinations that you do take, are likely to be held in the Examinations Schools on the High Street, a nineteenth century building purpose-built for the holding of examinations.

The Examination Schools are situated on High Street, to the east of University College. The full address is The Examination Schools, 75-81 High Street, Oxford, OX1 4GB.

## Oxford Examination Papers Online (OXAM)

Copies of old Examination Papers can be found here

<https://weblearn.ox.ac.uk/portal/hierarchy/oxam>

## Examination Failure and Re-sits

For details of the procedures followed if you fail an examination or assessment, please see the Examination Regulations and Examination Conventions for the MSc in Modern South Asian Studies.

General information is available at

<https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/exams/results?wssl=1>

### **Mitigating Circumstances**

If you have a problem before or during your exams, or in relation to your submitted work, that you think has seriously affected your performance, you can submit a 'mitigating circumstances notice to examiners' (often referred to as an 'MCE') so that the examiners are made aware of the situation.

You should only submit a notice when you have suffered a serious problem – either medical or personal. Examiners are limited in the way they can take such circumstances into account, as ultimately they have to assess your performance on the work that has been produced.

If your examination preparation, rather than the examinations themselves, was affected, it is only likely to be appropriate to submit a notice if the impact on you was very severe.

Independent evidence, such as a medical certificate or supporting letter from your college or department (for non-medical circumstances), should always be submitted along with your notice.

Examples of the kind of problem that might prompt you to submit a notice where there has been a significant impact on your performance are:

- acute illness
- bereavement
- extended disruption to study caused by the COVID-19 pandemic
- other significant adverse personal circumstances (e.g. the impact of crime)

If you have a disability or long-term health condition, you should ensure that you apply for alternative examination arrangements if appropriate. If you think that your performance has still been affected by your disability or condition, despite the alternative arrangements and other support in place, or you suffer another serious problem such as an acute illness just before or during the exams, you can also submit a mitigating circumstances notice.

### **What to do**

You should contact your college office/department as soon you realise there is a problem, whether this is before, during, or after your exams.

Your college/department will be able to give you advice on the best course of action, but it is your decision on whether to submit a notice, and your responsibility to make sure that you submit the required information (and supporting documentation) to your college/department. In most cases

students may submit the MCE directly via Student Self Service but it is also possible for your college to submit an MCE on your behalf if necessary. The most important part of your MCE is the 'student impact statement' to be completed using the proforma available from the webpage: <https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/exams/problems-completing-your-assessment> where you can also find more information and links to further guidance. Students are generally encouraged to submit only one MCE relating to the academic year as a whole. However, if you wish to, you may submit more than one (and this would be particularly appropriate if the circumstances affected one particular assessment earlier on in the year but were not on-going). You can always submit another MCE if necessary for circumstances that affected you later in the course. However, the final deadline for submitting an MCE is no later than three days after your final assessment (i.e. three days after submission of your thesis, which in normal circumstances will be by 12.00 noon on Sunday 4 September 2022).

You, or anyone acting on your behalf, must not communicate directly with the examiners.

For more information please refer to: <https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/exams/problems-completing-your-assessment>.

#### Consideration by the Board of Examiners

When reaching their decision, examiners will take into consideration the severity and relevance of the circumstances, and the strength of the evidence. Examiners will also note whether all or a subset of papers were affected, being aware that it is possible for circumstances to have different levels of impact on different papers. The banding information will be used at the final board of examiners meeting to adjudicate on the merits of candidates. Further information for students is provided in the document 'Consideration of mitigating circumstances by examiners', available at <https://www.ox.ac.uk/sites/files/oxford/MCE%20Guidance%20MT18.pdf>.

#### Examination Results

Once your results are released you will be sent an email informing you that your assessment results and the result for the year (if applicable) are available to view in Student Self Service. If you have completed your studies you will also be able to view your final classification. More information can be found here <https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/exams/results?wssl=1>

#### Academic transcripts

If you haven't yet completed your course, you can request copies of your on-course transcript. This will show your academic achievement to date but will not include a final classification. An on-course transcript will reflect the information you see in Student Self Service and is only available once you are entered for an assessment. If your assessments have not yet appeared in Student Self Service and you are still studying at the University, the enrolment certificate available through Student Self Service will act as a certification of attendance. If you require On-course transcripts they can be ordered online at a cost of £12 each from the University online shop <https://www.oxforduniversitystores.co.uk/product-catalogue/degree-conferrals/academic-transcripts/academic-transcript>.

## External Examiners and Examiners' Reports

The external examiners responsible for the MSc in Modern South Asian Studies (2021-22) are:

- Dr Alessandra Mezzadri, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London
- Dr Prashant Kidambi, University of Leicester

**Students are strictly prohibited from contacting external examiners directly.** If you are unhappy with an aspect of your assessment you may make a complaint or appeal (see p. 86).

Examiners' reports from previous years of the MSc in Modern South Asian Studies will be made available on Canvas.

## **Skills and Learning Development**

### **Academic Progress**

The Course Director, Professor Imre Bangha, has overall responsibility for monitoring and reporting on student progress. GSR reporting (explained in more detail on pp. 74-75 below) is a vital tool for doing so and we therefore encourage you to complete your termly reports, as your supervisors will also be doing, in order to achieve the best levels of support from the academic staff during your studies.

All members of the Teaching Committee will be involved with the teaching of the MSc in Modern South Asian Studies and can be contacted by students with requests for assistance by email in the first instance.

## **Supervision**

### **Supervision arrangements**

All students are assigned a general supervisor at the start of the academic year. You will be expected to make contact with your supervisor during noughth week of Michaelmas term to discuss your programme of study, research interests, your Option choices and your timetable for the year. Thereafter you should meet with them at least at the start of each term and more often if required. The role of the general supervisor is to guide you through your course of study, to assist you with written assessments, and answering any questions before you submit work. Whilst pastoral care is primarily the responsibility of your college advisor, you should also make your general supervisor aware of any personal issues that might be affecting your work on the course.

In addition, you will have an Option paper teacher for each of the options you choose. He/she (in some cases assisted by senior graduate students or postdocs) will take your Option classes each week, and meet you twice, either individually or in very small groups, during the term to discuss the two essays which you will submit in advance. He/she will also help with your revision in the run up to examinations.

You will also have a thesis supervisor. Depending on your chosen thesis topic, this may be your general supervisor, one of your Option paper teachers, or another academic. The thesis supervisor will be appointed once the working title for your thesis has been approved by the Course Director(s) in noughth week of Hilary term.

Your thesis supervisor will help you to develop your thesis title and prepare the thesis proposal that you will present during Hilary term. He/she will discuss the sources you will need, and your plans for gathering source materials, including, if you choose to undertake fieldwork, signing off on your activity/travel and fieldwork risk assessment, CUREC 19 risk assessment and travel insurance applications by the relevant deadlines (internally, Friday of week 2 of the term preceding the vacation in which the travel is to take place, in order to make the OSGA deadline of Friday of week 3). Please note that for any fieldwork that takes place in the Christmas vacation,

your general supervisor will undertake this role (as your thesis supervisor will not have been appointed by that stage).

The thesis supervisor should endeavour to ensure that, within a pattern of regular meetings, the student works on the thesis within a planned framework. This should always attempt to establish the stages which the student should be expected to have achieved at various points. The thesis supervisor should see that written work is prepared as appropriate in accordance with the course requirements and structure. Such work should be returned with constructive criticism and in reasonable time.

Thesis supervisors should ensure that, from time to time, students are told how their work is progressing and should also try to ensure that the student feels properly directed and able to communicate with them.

Please note that Oxford scholars who are not part of the Teaching Committee take on supervision at their own discretion only; their ability to supervise will depend on the time they have available and their other teaching commitments.

If you have any issues with teaching or supervision please raise these as soon as possible so that they can be addressed promptly. Details of who to contact are provided on p. 86 'Complaints and Appeals'.

### Supervision frequency

General supervisors are expected to meet with students a minimum of once per term, with additional meetings scheduled as necessary. Active supervision will commence during noughth week of Michaelmas term and normally will not continue beyond week 9 of Trinity term. Students should be prepared to work independently over the long vacation.

### Graduate Supervision Reporting (GSR)

This system will give you the opportunity to contribute to your termly supervision reports by reviewing and commenting on your own progress. To access GSR, please visit the Student Self Service website at the address below. You will be able to log on to the site using your single sign-on details. <https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/selfservice?wssl=1>

It is strongly recommended that you complete a self-assessment report every reporting period. If you have any difficulty completing this you must speak to your supervisor or Course Director.

Your self-assessment report will be used by your supervisor(s) as a basis to complete a report on your performance this reporting period, for identifying areas where further work may be required, and for reviewing your progress against agreed timetables and plans for the term ahead. GSR will alert you by email when your supervisor or Course Director has completed your report and it is available for you to view.

Use this opportunity to:

- Review and comment on your academic progress during the current reporting period

- Measure your progress against the requirements and agreed timetable for your programme of study
- Identify skills developed and training undertaken or required (taught programmes only)
- List your engagement with the academic community
- Raise concerns or issues regarding your academic progress to your supervisor
- Outline your plans for the next term (where applicable)

Students and supervisors are reminded that having a positive student-supervisor relationship is an important factor in student success. Research suggests that one of the strongest predictors of postgraduate completion is having expectations met within the student-supervisor relationship.

### Flagging concerns

Student concerns should relate directly to academic progress. If students are dissatisfied with any other aspects of provision e.g. their supervisory relationship or their working environment, they should raise these with their Course Director (or equivalent) in the first instance, and pursue them through the department's complaints procedure if necessary (see p. 86).

Supervisors should discuss any concerns about academic progress with the student before flagging a concern in GSR.

Course Directors should review all flagged concerns and take action as appropriate. A severe concern should result in a meeting with the OSGA Director of Graduate Studies without delay. The DGS and or Course Director should briefly note any action being taken to resolve the matter.

- **Minor concerns** – Satisfactory progress is being made, but minor issues have been identified where further action may be required to keep progress on track
- **Major concerns** – One or more factors are significantly affecting progress, and further action is required now to keep progress on track
- **Severe concerns** – Progress is being seriously affected by one or more factors, and a meeting with the Director of Graduate Studies (Professor Paul Irwin Crookes) should be held as soon as possible to discuss further action to get progress back on track

### Learning Development and skills

#### Applying for DPhil

It is strongly recommended that a current Oxford student who is considering applying for a DPhil should discuss this matter with his or her supervisor at an early stage. Applications are made in the same way as you did for the MSc via the Graduate Admissions Office. Former students of the department have gone on to MPhils and DPhils in departments including ODID, Anthropology, Geography at Oxford and research degrees at many other universities.

#### The DPhil in Area Studies

Looking beyond the big picture of globalisation and development, researchers at the Oxford School of Global and Area Studies (OSGA) examine the interplay between the local, the national, the regional, and the global to offer a better understanding of the contemporary world. Exploring a broad range of area-specific issues such as urbanisation in China, gender in Japan, sovereignty in East Asia, ethnicity in South Asia, reconciliation in Africa, democracy in Latin America, security in the Middle East, and presidentialism in Russia, the School's students and scholars closely engage with particular problems such as these to bridge gaps in the universalising theories of the social sciences.

### **Aims and Objectives**

The DPhil in Area Studies aims to empower you to achieve the following learning outcomes:

- Develop research skills in ways that are relevant to the study of areas and regions
- Build an interdisciplinary and/or comparative understanding of different regions
- Undertake original research which makes a significant contribution to the literature
- Communicate research to non-academic audiences in ways that ensure real-world impact
- Present a lucid and scholarly thesis for examination

Throughout your studies, you will be able to draw on the resources offered by the School's vibrant research community as well as from across the Social Sciences Division and the Language Centre. You will have access to the University's outstanding library resources and a connection to an unrivalled network of likeminded students, scholars, and practitioners that engage with the work of the School on a day-to-day basis. Complementing a dedicated Research Seminar series designed specifically to support the School's DPhil cohort in their studies is a huge range of further lectures, workshops and conferences organised by Area Studies academics that overlap with the department's areas of expertise.

### **Course Overview**

Our doctoral programme is especially distinctive in that it is designed to meet the needs of students seeking particular interdisciplinary approaches to regions of the world, as well as those who perhaps fall between or across disciplinary boundaries. It also caters for those whose work cuts across a number of fields including history, cultural studies, anthropology, politics, political economy, international relations, environmental studies and development studies.

Candidates for the DPhil will normally be admitted with Probationer Research Student (PRS) status. As a PRS, you will develop your research proposal and skills, and produce a draft section or sections of your thesis in order to apply for the Transfer of Status that will end your probationary period as a research student and give you full DPhil status.

You will participate in the 1st Year DPhil Seminar Series and you will have the opportunity to attend other courses offered by the School as identified in your Training Needs Analysis, which will

be discussed and agreed with your supervisor and reviewed on a regular basis. As a DPhil student at OSGA, you will be assigned one or two supervisors, depending on your thesis subject. These supervisors will advise and guide you as you progress through the different stages of your research.

### DPhil in Oriental Studies

The Faculty of Oriental Studies also offers a Doctor of Philosophy (DPhil) research degree and is able to offer supervision over the full range of regions in which its academics have expertise.

The DPhil in Oriental Studies is the faculty's main research degree. Supervision can be offered in the full-range of areas in which the faculty has expertise, namely Chinese studies, Egyptology and the ancient Near East, Eastern Christianity, Hebrew and Jewish studies, the Islamic world, Japanese studies, Korean studies and South and Inner Asia. All topics fall under the general degree title of DPhil in Oriental Studies.

You will be assigned a supervisor(s) who has overall responsibility for the direction of your work on behalf of the faculty. Typically, you should expect to have meetings with your supervisor at least twice a term during the period of your study, often more frequently during the earlier stages of the research programme. Through independent research, and with the guidance of your supervisor, you will be required to complete a thesis of 80,000 to 100,000 words.

The DPhil normally takes between three and four years to complete. You will begin your programme as a Probationary Research Student (PRS), applying to transfer to full DPhil status by the start of your second year. A further assessment, to confirm status, will take place during the third year. The transfer of status and confirmation of status assessments are processes handled by academics other than the supervisor, and are an opportunity to receive substantive feedback on your work by experts other than your supervisor(s).

You will have the opportunity to attend faculty seminars, lectures and colloquia, as well as a variety of skills training sessions offered by the faculty, as appropriate to different stages of the graduate career. All research students are offered an opportunity to attend the tutorial teaching day at the faculty in Hilary term. Those completing the training are then placed on the Graduate Teaching Register and are able to provide teaching for undergraduates if the opportunity arises.

### Opportunities for skills training and development

A wide range of information and training materials are available to help you develop your academic skills – including time management, research and library skills, referencing, revision skills and academic writing. More information can be found on the Oxford Students website <http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/guidance/skills>. Here is a short list of what type of courses are available and where:

- Bodleian Library <http://libguides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/workshops> provides training in information skills and information literacy.

- Careers Service <http://www.careers.ox.ac.uk> runs courses, offers one-to-one sessions with a careers adviser, and information on jobs and internship opportunities.
- IT Learning Programme <http://www.it.ox.ac.uk/do/training-and-facilities> offers a range of courses on computing, software, coding, visualization, and data management.

### Oxford University Language Centre

<http://www.lang.ox.ac.uk/>

There are resources available at the Language Centre for students whose first language is not English. Students who are non-native speakers of English are entitled to take courses in English for Academic Studies. Courses in Academic Writing and Advanced Communication Skills are also available.

There are also more intensive courses available, including the Pre-Sessional Course in English for Academic Purposes. This is either a four or eight week course open to students embarking on study at any English-speaking university. There are resources for independent study in the Language Centre library and online English teaching tools.

### On-course language support

If you experience difficulties with your academic writing do not delay seeking out sources of support and guidance. You should approach the Course Director(s) or general supervisor to discuss your needs. Develop your academic writing skills through practice and ask for detailed feedback on your work. Ensure that you follow scrupulously the source use and referencing conventions of your discipline, even if they vary from those you have used before.

If you wish to enrol on a course once you have started your studies please obtain the written permission of the Course Director for the MSc in Modern South Asian Studies before you register for the course as a fee will be charged to the department.

### Opportunities to engage in the department research community

A range of South Asia-related seminars take place at the University in term time. The Modern South Asia seminar which is expected to be held online via Zoom for at least the first two terms is a compulsory part of the course. Seminar series elsewhere in OSGA may be of interest and those at the departments of Politics and International Relations, Anthropology, Economics, Law, International Development and History regularly feature papers on South Asia and you are welcome and encouraged to attend any of them (timetables permitting).

### Employability and careers information and advice

The Oxford Careers Service provides invaluable support in researching and planning your next steps after the MSc in Modern South Asian Studies. See <http://www.careers.ox.ac.uk>. There will be an introductory session from a member of Careers Service during the OSGA/Research Methods induction on Thursday 7 October.

Further information and advice is also available on the Oxford Student website  
[www.ox.ac.uk/students/life/experience](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/life/experience).

## **Student representation, evaluation and feedback**

### **Unit representation**

At the start of the year, you should elect two class representatives. The reps, who will work with the reps for students taking the MPhil in Modern South Asia, will be responsible for keeping in touch with all the members of the class throughout the year. The reps act as the link between staff and students; they represent the opinions and views of the class. The forum for communicating these views to the teaching staff is the Graduate Joint Consultative Committee (GJCC) meetings, which usually take place in week 4 or 5 each term and are where reps are asked to report any relevant feedback to the Course Director and administrator. Oxford Student Union organises training for student reps.

The student reps are also invited to join the open business of the Teaching Committee meetings, which also usually take place in week 4 or 5 each term. (This arrangement has been suspended during the pandemic when the meetings were held online – if it possible to reinstate it this year then we will do so.)

### **Other Student Rep Activities**

The reps might also independently organise study groups/revision groups as well as social events and assist with the organisation of special events such as film nights. Reps might also want to co-ordinate reunions or alumni contact groups for those interested once the year is up.

### **School representation**

OSGA also requires one student rep to join the School's Graduate Studies Committee that meets each term on Wednesdays of week 5. This responsibility rotates between the six teaching units within OSGA. In 2020-21 one of the MSc Modern South Asian Studies reps fulfilled this role. Reps of Modern South Asian Studies should make contact with their counterpart in the relevant unit and pass on any feedback, queries or comments that they or their cohort would like to be considered in this forum.

### **Division and University representation**

Student representatives sitting on the Divisional Board are selected through a process organised by the Oxford University Student Union (OUSU). Details can be found on the OUSU website along with information about student representation at the University level.

### **Opportunities to provide evaluation and feedback**

Please feel free to make suggestions for change and improvements at any time to your lecturers and supervisors and let us know if there are books that you think the library should acquire. At the end of each term, we administer questionnaires on each of the options. Throughout the year, the group's views will be fed through the class reps to the GJCC and Modern South Asian Studies Teaching Committee, and the student body will be kept informed of action. Lastly, at the end of the year we have a discussion and a social event where you can discuss your views with the staff as a group. Your comments are essential to improve the MSc. Completing your reports in the GSR

system (see pp. 74-75) is also a very important and effective way of recording your feedback and comments on the course.

Students on full-time and part-time matriculated courses are surveyed once per year on all aspects of their course (learning, living, pastoral support, college) through the Student Barometer.

Previous results can be viewed by students, staff and the general public at:

[www.ox.ac.uk/students/life/feedback](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/life/feedback). We strongly encourage all students to participate in this survey as only when a minimum threshold is reached are the results published.

## Student life and support

### Coronavirus COVID-19 Advice

We all have a responsibility for reducing the risks of COVID-19 while living, studying and working in Oxford.

The University will implement health measures as appropriate for different settings.

As we prepare for the start of Michaelmas (autumn) term, we're also asking all our new and returning students to Be Responsible. Be Considerate. Be Safe. In particular you should:

- **Get vaccinated** as soon as possible if you have not already done so
- **Wear face coverings** where indicated (unless exempt)
- **Test regularly**, and if you have symptoms
- **Stay at home** if you are unwell
- **Wash your hands** regularly with soap or sanitiser
- **Be considerate of other people's space**

You will not have to socially distance, apart from in specific locations, in which case your college or department will notify you.

Our approach to health and safety continues to be informed by Oxford's clinical academics, as well as local and Government guidance.

### What to do if you're a COVID-19 contact

If you're a [contact of someone with COVID-19](#), you'll need to self-isolate ([unless you're exempt](#)).

Even if you're exempt, you'll still need to get a PCR test within 5 days of finding out you're a contact, and you'll be strongly encouraged to take a LFD test twice a week. [Read the guidance for contacts of people with COVID-19 on the UK Government website](#).

### Behaviour in the community

You are expected to follow [health guidance](#) at all times when in Oxford. In particular we urge you to be considerate of other people's space, and wear a face covering when asked, when you are out and about around the city and University. This will help to reassure the wider Oxford community that students care about reducing COVID-19 risks as we return to being together once again. Students who act in a way which is likely to put members of the community at risk, or who bring their college into disrepute, may be liable to college or University disciplinary measures.

For more information, please see: <https://www.ox.ac.uk/coronavirus/health/>.

## Who to contact for help

There are various people with whom students can discuss any problems they are facing: their Programme Administrator; their Course Director; their general supervisor; the OSGA DGS; the OSGA Academic Co-ordinator; the OSGA Disability Co-ordinators; the OSGA Harassment Advisors; their college and their college advisor.

Every college has their own systems of support for students, please refer to your College handbook or website for more information on who to contact and what support is available through your college. Your college will appoint you a college advisor, who is also available to discuss your academic progress, and to provide a local focal point for your relationship with your college. They will also be available for you to raise any issues which you may feel unable to discuss with your supervisor.

Details of the wide range of sources of support available more widely in the University are available from the Oxford Students website ([www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare)), including in relation to mental and physical health and disability.

## Student Societies

There are a range of faith societies, belief groups, and religious centres within Oxford University that are open to students. For more information visit: <https://edu.web.ox.ac.uk/faith-societies>

There is a wide range of student clubs and societies to get involved in - for more details visit: [www.ox.ac.uk/students/life/clubs](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/life/clubs)

South Asia-specific societies include:

- The Oxford India Society <http://ois.org.uk/>
- The Oxford Pakistan Society <https://www.oupaksoc.org/>
- The Oxford Majlis Society <https://oxfordmajlis.wixsite.com/majlis> The Oxford South Asian Society <https://sites.google.com/view/oxford-south-asian-society>
- The Oxford Hindu Society <https://oxfordhindusociety.co.uk/>
- The Oxford Islamic Society <https://ouisoc.org/>
- The Oxford Sikh Society <https://ox.sikhsoc.org/>
- The South Asian Political Thought Discussion Group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/780577202046290>

## Equality and Diversity at Oxford

“The University of Oxford is committed to fostering an inclusive culture which promotes equality, values diversity and maintains a working, learning and social environment in which the rights and dignity of all its staff and students are respected.” University of Oxford Equality Policy.

Oxford is a diverse community with staff and students from over 140 countries, all with different cultures, beliefs and backgrounds. As a member of the University you contribute towards making it an inclusive environment and we ask that you treat other members of the University community with respect, courtesy and consideration. Please note that this applies not only in physical spaces and direct person-to-person interactions but also in virtual spaces such as online forums and social media groups.

The Equality and Diversity Unit works with all parts of the collegiate University to develop and promote an understanding of equality and diversity and ensure that this is reflected in all its processes. The Unit also supports the University in meeting the legal requirements of the Equality Act 2010, including eliminating unlawful discrimination, promoting equality of opportunity and fostering good relations between people with and without the 'protected characteristics' of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and/or belief, sex and sexual orientation. Visit our website for further details or contact us directly for advice: <https://edu.web.ox.ac.uk> or [equality@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:equality@admin.ox.ac.uk).

The Equality and Diversity Unit also supports a broad network of harassment advisors in departments/faculties and colleges and a central Harassment Advisory Service. For more information on the University's Harassment and Bullying policy and the support available for students visit: [edu.web.ox.ac.uk/harassment-advice](https://edu.web.ox.ac.uk/harassment-advice)

### **Student Welfare and Support Services**

The Disability Advisory Service (DAS) can provide information, advice and guidance on the way in which a particular disability may impact on your student experience at the University and assist with organising disability-related study support. For more information visit:

[www.ox.ac.uk/students/shw/das](https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/shw/das)

The Counselling Service is here to help you address personal or emotional problems that get in the way of having a good experience at Oxford and realising your full academic and personal potential. They offer a free and confidential service. For more information visit:

[www.ox.ac.uk/students/shw/counselling](https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/shw/counselling)

A range of services led by students are available to help provide support to other students, including the peer supporter network, the Oxford SU's Student Advice Service and Nightline. For more information visit: [www.ox.ac.uk/students/shw/peer](https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/shw/peer)

Oxford SU also runs a series of campaigns to raise awareness and promote causes that matter to students. For full details, visit: [www.oxfordsu.org/communities/campaigns/](https://www.oxfordsu.org/communities/campaigns/) (login required)

### **Harassment help and advice**

The School adheres to the University's Policy on Harassment and Bullying, and is committed to fostering an inclusive culture which promotes equality, values diversity and maintains a working, learning and social environment in which the rights and dignity of all students are respected.

Harassment or victimisation is regarded as unacceptable behaviour and is not tolerated in any form. All members of the University are expected to treat each other fairly and with respect, courtesy and consideration. More information, including the full University Policy, can be found here <https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/harassment?wssl=1>

The school has two advisors who are ready to advise in complete confidence on any problems which may arise from alleged or apparent breaches of the University's Harassment Policy. (<http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop/harassmentadvice/>).

The OSGA advisors are Alexia Lewis (Russian and East European Studies Administrator), 12 Bevington Road, (2)74694 and Jane Baker (Japanese Studies Administrator), Nissan Institute for Japanese Studies, 27 Winchester Road, (2)74570.

Advisors will listen to your concerns and act as a sounding board to advise on the options that are available to you. All information containing allegations of harassment will be treated in strict confidence. For more information about this network see <https://edu.admin.ox.ac.uk/support>

### Policies and Regulations

The University has a wide range of policies and regulations that apply to students. These are easily accessible through the A-Z of University regulations, codes of conduct and policies available on the Oxford Students website [www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/regulations/a-z](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/regulations/a-z).

## Complaints and Appeals

The University, the Social Sciences Division and the Oxford School of Global and Area Studies all hope that provision made for students at all stages of their course of study will result in no need for complaints (about that provision) or appeals (against the outcomes of any form of assessment).

Where such a need arises, an informal discussion with the person immediately responsible for the issue that you wish to complain about (and who may not be one of the individuals identified below) is often the simplest way to achieve a satisfactory resolution.

Many sources of advice are available from colleges, faculties/departments and bodies like the Counselling Service or the Oxford SU Student Advice Service, which have extensive experience in advising students. You may wish to take advice from one of those sources before pursuing your complaint.

General areas of concern about provision affecting students as a whole should be raised through Joint Consultative Committees or via student representation on the faculty/department's committees.

### Complaints

If your concern or complaint relates to teaching or other provision made by the faculty/department, then you should raise it with the OSGA Director of Graduate Studies (Dr Paul Irwin-Crookes). Complaints about departmental facilities should be made to the Head of Administration and Finance (Erin Gordon). If you feel unable to approach one of those individuals, you may contact the Head of Department (OSGA), Professor Tim Power at the Latin American Centre. The officer concerned will attempt to resolve your concern/complaint informally.

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome, you may take your concern further by making a formal complaint to the Proctors under the University Student Complaints Procedure (<https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/complaints>).

If your concern or complaint relates to teaching or other provision made by your college, you should raise it either with your tutor or with one of the college officers, Senior Tutor, or Tutor for Graduates (as appropriate). Your college will also be able to explain how to take your complaint further if you are dissatisfied with the outcome of its consideration.

### Academic appeals

An academic appeal is an appeal against the decision of an academic body (e.g. boards of examiners, transfer and confirmation decisions etc.), on grounds such as procedural error or evidence of bias. There is no right of appeal against academic judgement.

If you have any concerns about your assessment process or outcome it is advisable to discuss these first informally with your subject or college tutor, Senior Tutor, Course Director, Director of Graduate Studies, supervisor or college or departmental administrator as appropriate. They will be

able to explain the assessment process that was undertaken and may be able to address your concerns. Queries must not be raised directly with the examiners.

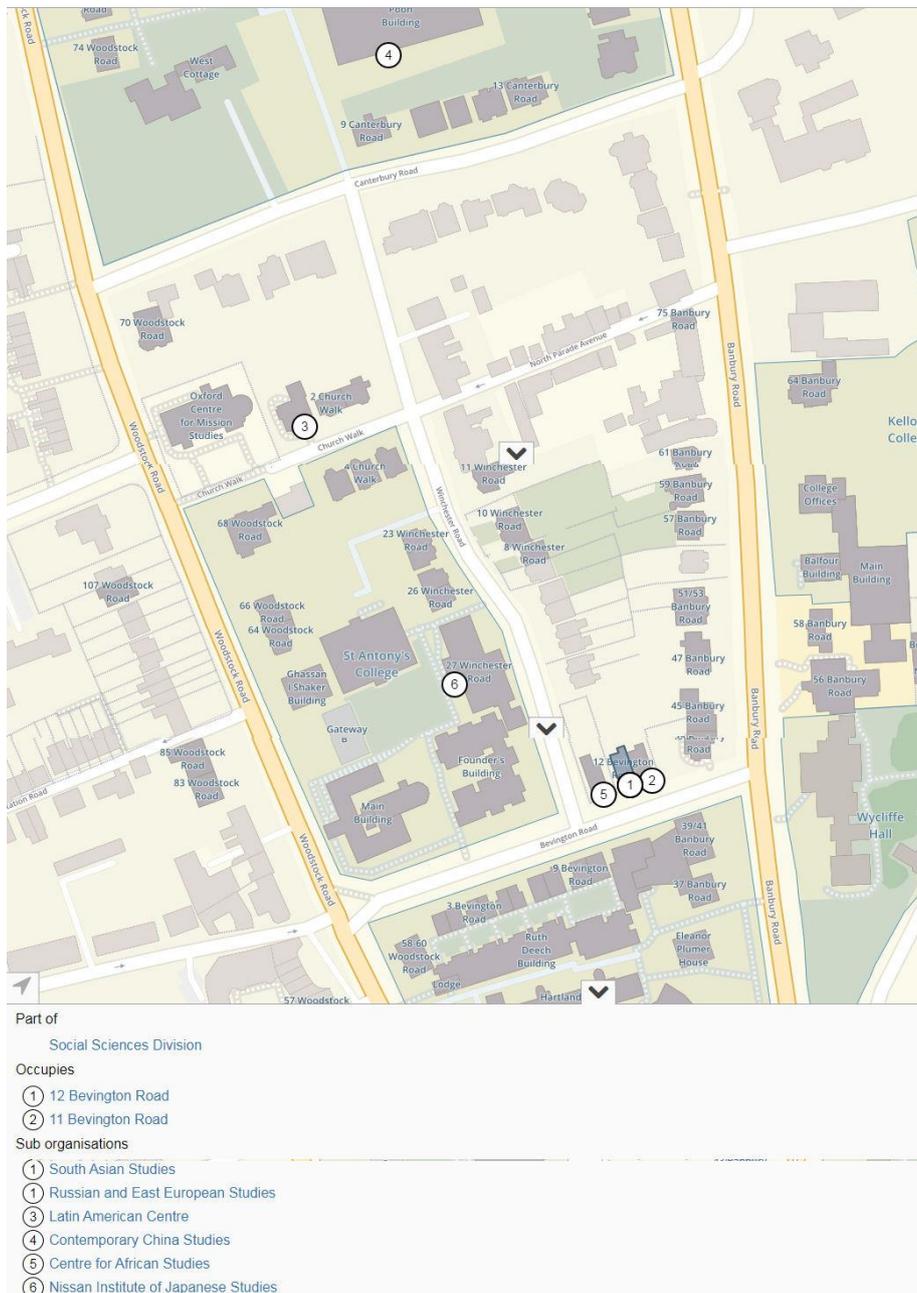
If you still have concerns you can make a formal appeal to the Proctors who will consider appeals under the University Academic Appeals Procedure (<https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/complaints>).

# Facilities

## The Oxford School of Global and Area Studies (OSGA)

### How to find us

The Oxford School for Global and Area Studies is based at 12 Bevington Road. One or two hour parking spaces are available in and around Bevington Road. For longer stays, visitors are advised to use the Peartree park and ride service [http://www.parkandride.net/oxford/html/facilities/peartree\\_parkandride.shtml](http://www.parkandride.net/oxford/html/facilities/peartree_parkandride.shtml) to the Old Radcliffe Infirmary stop. Bevington Road is a 20 minute walk or short taxi ride from Oxford train station and Gloucester Green coach station. There are various maps on the main University website that show all the Colleges and University Departments see: [www.ox.ac.uk/visitors\\_friends/maps\\_and\\_directions/index.html](http://www.ox.ac.uk/visitors_friends/maps_and_directions/index.html)



## Social spaces and facilities

The Oxford School for Global and Area Studies cannot provide individual workspace for MSc or MPhil students but does have rooms which students can book during normal office hours, subject to COVID-19 safety guidance. If you would like to book one of the seminar rooms in 11 Bevington Road please contact your Administrator.

## No Smoking Policy

Smoking is banned throughout the building.

## Opening Hours

Normal office hours are Monday to Friday 9.00 am – 5.00 pm. Students on the MSc Modern South Asian Studies have swipe card access to 11 and 12 Bevington Road during office hours only.

## Recycling and the Environment

The Oxford School for Global and Area Studies seeks to recycle as much as possible and is an active member of the NUS Green Impact scheme. **Blue** Recycling Boxes are available to use throughout 11 and 12 Bevington Road for drink cans, food tins, paper, cardboard, and plastic types 1-6. All recyclables must be empty or rinsed out. 12 Bevington Road also has recycling collection points for stamps and plastic bottle tops.

## Fire Safety

**Please read the Fire Notices.** The fire alarms are tested every Wednesday morning. This is a loud alarm. If the fire alarm sounds continuously, please leave the building immediately and gather at the **Fire Assembly point on the pavement outside 12 Bevington Road. Do not re-enter the building until you are told that it is safe to do so.** Fire drills are carried out termly.

All doors marked as Fire Doors should not be obstructed or propped open by a door stop, for example. The DPhil room and seminar room fire doors, and other fire doors in the buildings, will automatically close if the fire alarm is activated.

Please familiarise yourself with your nearest fire alarm call point and nearest escape route:

**12 Bevington Road – Basement Fire Escape Route** If you are in the DPhil Library or staff common room then you can leave by the basement fire exit next to the toilet. This takes you up steps outside 12 Bevington and to the Fire Assembly Point.

**12 Bevington Road – Ground Floor Fire Escape Route** If you are on the ground floor or above, you can leave by the main front door which takes you directly to the Fire Assembly Point or by the back fire exit which takes you through a side gate to the main Fire Assembly Point.

**11 Bevington Road – Basement Fire Escape** If you are in the basement then you can leave by the basement fire exit next to the toilet. This takes you up steps outside 12 Bevington and to the Fire Assembly Point.

**11 Bevington Road – Ground Floor Fire Escape Route** If you are on the ground floor or above, you can leave by the main front door which takes you directly to the Fire Assembly Point or by the back fire exit which takes you through a side gate to the main Fire Assembly Point.

### Toilets

In 12 Bevington toilets are located on the basement, first floor and second floor; in 11 Bevington toilets are located on the ground floor and second floor.

### Kitchens

The kitchens are 11 and 12 Bevington Road are for staff only.

### Health and Safety

The Departmental Safety Officer for OSGA is Millie Oates.

### First Aid

First aid notices are displayed throughout both buildings. These list the Nominated Person (Millie Oates) and any first aid trained individuals. There is a first aid box in the 12 Bevington staff post room and the 11 Bevington staff kitchen.

All accidents involving staff, students, and academic visitors to the Oxford School of Global and Area Studies should be immediately reported to the Departmental Safety Officer.

### OSGA Statement of Safety

The OSGA Statement of Safety is available in the General Resources section of the Research Methods Canvas site:

[https://canvas.ox.ac.uk/courses/126619/files/3255486?module\\_item\\_id=1367504](https://canvas.ox.ac.uk/courses/126619/files/3255486?module_item_id=1367504)

### The Faculty of Oriental Studies

The Faculty of Oriental Studies is based at the Oriental Institute (OI) in Pusey Lane in central Oxford (about a 10-minute walk from OSGA).

If you would like to book one of the seminar rooms in the Faculty of Oriental Studies, please contact Liliane Morton ([liliane.morton@orinst.ox.ac.uk](mailto:liliane.morton@orinst.ox.ac.uk)) well in advance.

## Libraries

Oxford meets the needs of its students, academics and the international research community with a wide range of library services provided by more than 100 libraries, making it the largest library system in the UK. The Bodleian Libraries form the integrated library service of the University of Oxford, offering over 9 million volumes, 26 site libraries, 3,800 study places, 48,000 online journals, hundreds of research databases, document supply services, information skills training programmes and world-class staff expertise.

These include the [Bodleian Library](https://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/libraries/old-library) (<https://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/libraries/old-library>) (the University's main library and a legal deposit library), the [Social Science Library](https://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/libraries/ssl) (<https://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/libraries/ssl>), the [Nizami Ganjavi Library](https://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/libraries/nizami-ganjavi-library) (<https://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/libraries/nizami-ganjavi-library>) and individual college libraries as well as other specialist libraries across Oxford.

To search the collections, locate items, access online resources, reserve or renew books, and for the library's instant chat service, please use SOLO (Search Oxford Libraries Online): [http://solo.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/primo-explore/search?vid=SOLO&lang=en\\_US&sortby=rank](http://solo.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/primo-explore/search?vid=SOLO&lang=en_US&sortby=rank). For off-site access to online resources log-in to SOLO with your Single-Sign-On. Once you have received your University Card, please set-up your library password in order to log-in to library PCs or connect your laptop to the Bodleian Libraries network: <https://register.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/>. An extensive range of guides to resources and services are available online, <https://libguides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/oxford>

You should find all the books and articles listed in each of the Option outlines either in the Bodleian Library, Social Science Library or your programme/centre specific Library. Bodleian Library books held off-site can be requested to numerous libraries and reading rooms across the university, via the online request system on SOLO. Colleges and departments also have their own smaller collections so if you cannot find a book you need, try the smaller libraries. Most Modern South Asian Studies reading lists are being set up on the Oxford Reading Lists Online (ORLO) system from 2021-22. We try to make all the key readings available online to students. If the book or journal article is not available electronically through the Bodleian then staff in the Social Sciences Library will scan it and make it available via ORLO (subject to copyright restrictions). If you are having difficulty finding a particular reading, please contact the subject librarian, the relevant lecturer or Option convenor, or the Course Administrator. Please note that further readings will not necessarily be available electronically and cannot be scanned, and that even for key readings there limits on what can be scanned under the University's copyright licence (usually one chapter or 10% of a book, or one article from a journal). Unfortunately books published in India are not covered under the licence.

**The following museums also house specialist collections on South Asia:**

- [Pitt Rivers Museum: India](https://www.prm.ox.ac.uk/india.html) (<https://www.prm.ox.ac.uk/india.html>)
- [The Ashmolean: Eastern Art Department](http://www.ashmolean.org/departments/easternart/) (<http://www.ashmolean.org/departments/easternart/>)

**Library Staff for Modern South Asian Studies:**

Dr Gillian Evison, Curator, South Asian Collections, Bodleian Library

Ms Louise Clark, Head of Social Sciences Libraries and Research & Learning Support

Ms Emma Mathieson, Modern South Asian Studies Librarian

Ms Jo Gardner, Bodleian Social Science Librarian and Subject Consultant for Politics & International Relations

### **Useful library and research resources:**

[ORLO Oxford Reading Lists Online \(https://oxford.rl.talis.com/index.html\)](https://oxford.rl.talis.com/index.html) Search for 'SAS' or 'OSGA' or under the name 'Minay' to find the reading lists for your Options.

[SOLO Search Oxford Libraries Online \(http://solo.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/primo-explore/search?vid=SOLO&lang=en\\_US&sortby=rank\)](http://solo.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/primo-explore/search?vid=SOLO&lang=en_US&sortby=rank) (includes a range of reference books, newspaper links and e-journals)

[JSTOR \(http://uk.istor.org/\)](http://uk.istor.org/)

[Indiastat \(http://www.indiastat.com/default.aspx\)](http://www.indiastat.com/default.aspx) (Statistical data on health, education, the economy, etc.)

[World Bank e-library \(http://elibrary.worldbank.org\)](http://elibrary.worldbank.org)

Jo Gardner and Emma Mathieson will lead a library induction on Tuesday 5 October at 3.00pm online via Teams.

### **Computing Facilities**

Oxford University IT Services is located at 13 Banbury Road and offers facilities, training, and advice to members of the University in all aspects of academic computing. It is responsible for the core networks reaching all departments and colleges. For details of courses and facilities, see the website: <http://www.it.ox.ac.uk/>

Please work through the IT induction materials that are available via Canvas.

## General Information

### Holidays

Please note that this is a full time course and that you are required to be resident in Oxford for the duration of the MSc. If you need to go away for a particular reason during term time or if you anticipate missing classes, you must discuss this with your supervisor and College and let them know the reason for your absence.

Also, before making any holiday arrangements please bear in mind that you will have to complete written assignments outside of normal term. You should seek advice from your supervisor or the Course Administrator before booking holidays. It is important that you let us know where you are going to be so that we can contact you in emergencies.

### UK Public Holidays (Bank Holidays)

When classes fall on a Bank Holiday please check with your Programme Administrator or Course Convenor as to whether your classes will be taught. Please note that in 2022, Thursday 2 and Friday 3 June are special bank holidays to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

### Information Security Golden Rules

When making decisions about storing, sharing or transporting data take into account the sensitivity of the information it contains. Is it **Sensitive** and should not therefore be publically available? Is it **Restricted** and should be confined to a particular audience? Or is it **Open** and can be available to all?

**Sensitive** data should not be removed from your server unless absolutely necessary and it should only be shared with authorised people via a secure method when agreed by the data owner. If it must be taken off-site ensure that the device on which it is held is encrypted. You must be aware of the information security policy of any destination and trust that it is secure. Email must not be used to transmit sensitive data.

Never divulge your passwords to anyone. Do not leave passwords in public spaces or in easily found locations such as your desk or laptop bag. Don't open emails that you weren't expecting and be cautious with attachments or internet links in any email. Ensure that all software – including anti-virus – is up to date.

When connecting to any University resource from any device outside of the Oxford network please ensure that you use the University VPN software to secure your connection.

You are required to read and understand the School Information Security Policy and other University ICT rules, regulations and policies:

(i) <https://www.anthro.ox.ac.uk/resources/information-security>

(ii) <https://www.it.ox.ac.uk/rules>

## Data Storage/Security

Here are a few links to support guides and resources:

Research Data Oxford website: <http://researchdata.ox.ac.uk/>

Working with data: <http://researchdata.ox.ac.uk/home/managing-your-data-at-oxford/storage-and-backup/>

Oxford's revised research data management policy:

<http://researchdata.ox.ac.uk/2019/02/01/oxfords-revised-research-data-management-policy/>

Policy on the Management of Data Supporting Research Outputs:

<http://researchdata.ox.ac.uk/university-of-oxford-policy-on-the-management-of-data-supporting-research-outputs/> (See section 4.0 Relationship with existing policies)

## Oxford Glossary

<b>Battels</b>	The charges made to a member of a college (student or Fellow) for accommodation, meals, etc.
<b>Bodleian Libraries</b>	The collective name for the University's integrated library service.
<b>Bodleian Library</b>	Also known as "the Bod". The largest of the University's libraries, named after Sir Thomas Bodley.
<b>Bursar</b>	The chief financial officer of a college.
<b>Canvas</b>	Canvas is a restricted-access website that is used to store materials to support your learning here at Oxford. The MSc Modern South Asian Studies sites include reading lists and information about lectures, examinations, options and Research Methods courses.
<b>Course Director</b>	A member of the academic staff within OSGA or Oriental Studies responsible for all policy issues relating to graduate study (including courses, teaching supervision and admissions). In 2019-20, there will be two Course Directors for Modern South Asian Studies: Professor Imre Bangha and Professor Matthew McCartney.
<b>Creweian Oration</b>	The Creweian Oration is named after Nathaniel, Lord Crewe, and is delivered at Encaenia by the Public Orator or, in alternate years, the Professor of Poetry. The oration recounts the events of the past year and commemorates the University's benefactors.
<b>Degree Days</b>	Various days throughout the year on which students may graduate.
<b>DGS</b>	Director of Graduate Studies. The DGS for OSGA is Dr Paul Irwin Crookes. He is a member of the academic staff in the Oxford School of Global and Area Studies and is responsible for all policy issues relating to graduate study in Area Studies.
<b>Division</b>	There are four academic divisions – Humanities; Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences (MPLS); Medical Sciences; and Social Sciences Division (SSD). OSGA is part of

the Social Sciences Division, while the Faculty of Oriental Studies is part of the Humanities Division

**Domestic Bursar**

The college officer (often a Fellow of the College) with overall responsibility for domestic aspects of college life, including accommodation, security, catering and housekeeping, external lettings and sometimes sports facilities and administrative non-academic staff.

**Emeritus**

A title held by retired professors and readers of the University who meet the conditions set out in University regulations. Colleges have their own rules for awarding the title.

**Encaenia**

Annual ceremony at the end of each academic year at which honorary degrees are conferred and the Creweian Oration is given by the Public Orator.

**Examination Regulations**

The University Examination Regulations lay down the official framework for all courses and examinations, and for procedures to be followed when unusual circumstances arise.

**Fellows**

In colleges, the senior members of college who, together with the college head constitute the governing body of the college. Colleges may also have other categories of fellow, such as honorary or emeritus fellows, who are not members of the governing body. There are also research fellowships of various kinds in the University.

**Formative Assessment**

Formative assessment aims to assist students to either better understand a subject or improve how they present their knowledge about that subject. 'The goal of formative assessment is to monitor student learning to provide on-going feedback that can be used by students to improve their learning'.

**Freshers**

New students who are just beginning their first year at University.

**Full Term**

The main undergraduate teaching period at Oxford. It lasts for eight weeks and runs from Sunday of First Week to Saturday of Eighth Week. The dates of Full Term are

prescribed by Council and are published in the Gazette and on the University website.

<b>GAO</b>	The Graduate Admissions Office, part of the central University.
<b>GSR</b>	Graduate Supervision Reporting.
<b>Governing Body</b>	Collective name for the fellows of a College that meet to manage College business.
<b>High Table</b>	The table in a college dining hall, often on a dais, at which the Head of House and Fellows dine. Guests may sometimes be invited to High Table.
<b>Hilary Term</b>	The second academic term in the year -from January to March.
<b>Joint Consultative Committee (JCC)</b>	A committee of students in a Faculty who represent their peers to the Faculty and act as a channel of communication between the two. Modern South Asian Studies as a graduate programme has a GJCC or Graduate Joint Consultative Committee. Two students will be elected by the cohort to serve as representatives on this committee.
<b>Long Vac</b>	Long vacation – the name widely used for the period between the end of Trinity term and the beginning of the Michaelmas term each year.
<b>Matriculation</b>	The ceremony at which you will officially become a member of the University of Oxford. The ceremony is compulsory - you will not be able to sit any exams or graduate if you have not matriculated.
<b>Michaelmas Term</b>	The first academic term in the year - from October to December.
<b>0<sup>th</sup> (Noughth) week</b>	The week before a term begins (week 0).
<b>Ninth week</b>	The week after full term finishes (week 9).
<b>OI</b>	The Oriental Institute (Pusey Lane).
<b>OSGA</b>	The Oxford School of Global and Area Studies (12 Bevington Road).

<b>Pigeonhole (also “Pidge”)</b>	A place where post is left for you/members of staff/visitors - usually in the lodge at your college.
<b>Porters Lodge</b>	The main entrance / reception to a college.
<b>Porter</b>	College employees that run the lodge receive and sort the post; direct visitors and assist with all sorts of issues in-college.
<b>Proctors</b>	The two Proctors (Senior and Junior) are elected each year by colleges in rotation to serve for one year. The statutes provide that they ‘shall generally ensure that the statutes, regulations, customs, and privileges of the University are observed. They serve on the University’s main committees and where not members of committees may receive their papers and attend meetings but not vote. They have responsibilities under the statutes and regulations for aspects of student discipline, for ensuring the proper conduct of examinations and for dealing with complaints. They also carry out ceremonial duties, e.g. at degree ceremonies.
<b>Public Orator</b>	The office of Public Orator can be traced back to 1564, when the University appointed an Orator to greet Queen Elizabeth I on her visit to Oxford. The duties of the office include presenting those who receive honorary degrees, at Encaenia and other degree ceremonies, introducing each in a Latin speech. At Encaenia the Orator traditionally gives the Creweian Oration, a report on events of the year, in English.
<b>Recognised Student</b>	A student working in Oxford for up to a year (i.e. one, two or three terms) but not preparing for a higher degree – they are entitled to use library and University facilities, but do not have college association.
<b>Sabbatical Leave</b>	A period of leave granted to university teachers for the purposes of study, travel, and research.
<b>Sub-Fusc</b>	Formal attire worn by students and academics on formal occasions, including matriculation, examinations, and graduation. It is made up of a dark suit, skirt or trousers, a white shirt or blouse and a white or black bow tie, black full-length tie or black ribbon, worn with a black gown and a

mortar-board. The name derives from the Latin subfuscus, meaning dark brown.

**Summative Assessment**

Summative assessment produces a mark. So it can be an exam, test, or even a piece of assessed work. 'The goal of summative assessment is to evaluate student learning at the end of an instructional unit by comparing it against some standard or benchmark'.

**Trinity Term**

The third academic term of the year - from April to June.

**University Gazette and Oxford Blueprint**

The Gazette is published weekly, in term time and is the official publication for University business, regulation changes, meetings etc. It is available in all the University and College Libraries.

Oxford Blueprint, a newsletter for University and college staff and students, is published in 0<sup>th</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> weeks of term. It contains news, interviews and features reflecting the diversity of activity across the University, and an events diary will be included.

**Viva Voce**

An oral examination.

**Warden**

The Head of House at All Souls College, Keble College, Merton College, New College, Nuffield College, St Antony's College and Wadham College.

## **Appendix 1: Undertaking Required by Modern South Asian Studies MSc/MPhil Students: Class Recording and use of Electronic Devices**

This note sets out a few simple rules that have been put in place this year to ensure a safe and productive teaching and learning environment for all students and staff.

Within some South Asian states, academics, students, and intellectuals are currently facing challenges to the freedom of expression from state authorities and other actors. Protecting student and staff welfare, and promoting the values of free speech and full, frank and open academic debate in an atmosphere of mutual trust and respect are critical for everyone in the Oxford School of Global and Area Studies.

Because of these challenges in South Asia, the School has decided to take the following action to safeguard the interests of everyone taking our courses:

(1) Prohibiting any form of recording by students of lectures, seminars or other teaching. (If you have a disability which means you need to take recordings you must seek express written consent from the School first. The School may refuse requests to record if other reasonable adjustments to take account of your disability are possible and, if such recording is authorised, the School may impose reasonable additional controls or requirements as a result.)

(2) Prohibiting the publication or dissemination of teaching or learning material generated by the University or the discussions/views/materials of other students or lecturers to any third party, including to any publicly accessible social media or other online forum. Materials which contain the statements of other staff or students should only be shared with fellow staff and students on the course using the University's online learning platforms or using Oxford University email addresses.

(Note – There is obviously no restriction on students or staff publishing or disseminating their own personal views online or in any forum if they choose. This prohibition forbids reporting on the views or materials shared by other staff or students and is required to seek to protect students/staff from future ramifications that may arise from publication or dissemination of their personal opinions to third parties or to forums where they have not themselves authorised such dissemination.)

Taking, or attempting to take, action in breach of the above requirements will be treated as a serious breach of the University of Oxford code of discipline at University Statute XI, including (but not limited to) the following provisions:

2. (1) No member of the University shall in a university context intentionally or recklessly:

(a) disrupt or attempt to disrupt teaching or study or research or the administrative, sporting, social, cultural, or other activities of the University;

(b) disrupt or attempt to disrupt the lawful exercise of freedom of speech by members, student members, and employees of the University or by visiting speakers;

(c) obstruct or attempt to obstruct any officer, employee, or agent of the University in the performance of his or her duties;

(g) engage in action which is likely to cause injury or to impair safety;

3. No member of the University shall incite or conspire with any other individual to engage in any of the conduct prohibited under this Part.

**Compliance with the above is a mandatory requirement of your participation in the course, and you are asked to confirm your acceptance of these terms as part of the student declaration which you need to complete by 9.00am on Monday of week 1 of Michaelmas term (Monday 11 October).**