

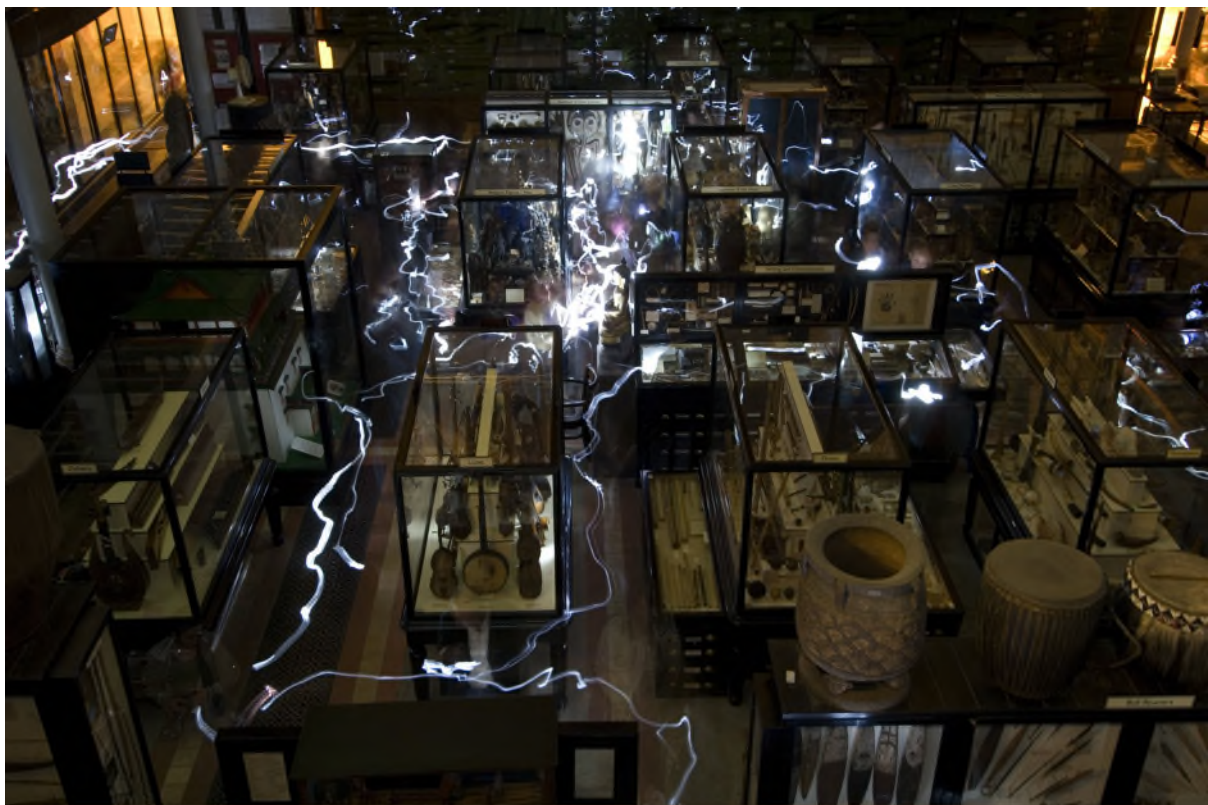


SCHOOL OF ANTHROPOLOGY & MUSEUM ETHNOGRAPHY

Course Handbook 2022-23

MPhil Visual, Material, & Museum Anthropology (VMMA)

MSc Visual, Material, & Museum Anthropology (VMMA)



The Pitt Rivers Museum during a late-night event © Rob Judges

This handbook applies to students starting the MSc and MPhil in Visual, Material & Museum Anthropology in Michaelmas Term 2022 (the first term of the academic year). The information in this handbook may be different for students starting in other years. If you need to refer to information found in this handbook, please specify the version you read (this is version 1.0 (1st October 2022)).

Disclaimer

The Examination Regulations relating to these courses are available:

[MSc Visual, Material & Museum Anthropology](#)
[MPhil Visual, Material & Museum Anthropology](#)

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 the Course Director.

The information in this handbook is accurate as at 1st October 2022 however it may be necessary for changes to be made in certain circumstances, as explained [here](#). 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.

Contents

Welcome	6
Information for all students on Visual, Material and Museum Anthropology degrees	8
Quick links and reference	8
Key Contacts	9
Core Teaching Staff	9
Course overview	10
MSc Learning Outcomes	10
First year (MPQ)	10
Second year (MPhil)	11
MPhil Learning Outcomes	11
Structure of teaching for Visual, Material & Museum Anthropology	11
Canvas – Virtual Learning Environment	12
Courses (Lecture Series)	12
Classes.....	12
Tutorials	12
Supervision	13
Attending Other Lectures.....	14
Expectation of Study.....	14
Reading Lists – ORLO.....	15
The structure of the courses	16
MICHAELMAS TERM.....	16
Cultural Representations Lecture Series	16
VMMA Post-lecture Discussion Class	16
VMMA Research Methods Classes	17
Tutorials	18
Pitt Rivers Museum Research Seminar in Visual, Material, and Museum Anthropology	18
Film Series I : ‘The Filmmaking Process’	18
HILARY TERM	20
Option Courses.....	20
Cultural Representations Lecture Series (cont)	22
VMMA Post-lecture Discussion class	22
VMMA Research Methods Classes	22
Tutorials (time and place varies).....	23
TRINITY TERM	24
VMMA Classes.....	24
Pitt Rivers Museum Research Seminar in VMMA.....	24

Dissertation (MSc) and Thesis (MPQ/MPhil)	24
MPhil Visual, Material & Museum Anthropology – Second Year	25
MICHAELMAS TERM	25
Fieldwork Essentials class	25
Critical Readings MPhil Class	26
Departmental Seminar	26
HILARY TERM	26
MPhil Thesis writing Class	26
Departmental Seminar	26
Option Paper	26
TRINITY TERM	26
Departmental Seminar	26
Methods Modules and Practical Training	27
Research Ethics	27
Important dates	27
MSc & MPQ Visual, Material & Museum Anthropology important dates	27
MICHAELMAS TERM	27
HILARY TERM	27
TRINITY TERM	28
MPhil 2 nd Year important dates	28
MICHAELMAS TERM	28
HILARY TERM	28
TRINITY TERM	28
Assessment	28
Submitted work	28
Paper 1: Contemporary themes in Visual, Material and Museum Anthropology	29
Paper 2: Option Paper	29
Paper 3: Research Methods	29
Paper 4: Fundamental Concepts in Visual, Material, and Museum Anthropology	30
Marking criteria	30
Problems completing your assessment	31
Examination Adjustments	31
Past papers	31
Prizes	31
Examination Conventions	32
Progression	32
Opportunities to provide evaluation and feedback	32
Feedback and Learning	33

Entering for the University examinations.....	33
Advice on tutorial essay writing	33
Good academic practice and avoiding plagiarism	34
Plagiarism	34
Use of Third Party Proof-Readers.....	35
Fieldwork Safety and Training.....	35
Fieldwork	35
Preparation	36
Training.....	36
Facilities	37
Libraries and Museums.....	37
Student representation	38
Joint Consultative Committee (JCC)	38
Oxford University Anthropological Society (OUAS)	39
Division and University representation	39
Student societies	39
Equality and Diversity at Oxford	39
Student Activities/Volunteering Opportunities at the Pitt Rivers Museum.....	40
Student Welfare and Support Services	42
Oxford Against Sexual Violence	42
Academic progress	43
University awards framework (UAF)	44
Policies and regulations	44
Recording of lectures	44
Freedom of speech.....	45
Complaints and appeals	46
Complaints	46
Academic appeals	47

Welcome

Dear incoming students in Visual, Material and Museum Anthropology,

A very warm welcome to you!

We are delighted that you have chosen to join the School of Anthropology & Museum Ethnography (SAME), and the Pitt Rivers Museum (PRM), and to study Visual, Material and Museum Anthropology (VMMA). We look forward to working with you.

This year, we are celebrating 10 years of VMMA! This anniversary coincides with 20 years of the Visual Anthropology degree, and 35 years of the Ethnology and Museum Ethnography degree – which then became Material Anthropology and Museum Ethnography. The two degrees joined forces in 2012 to create our wonderful, ever-evolving, VMMA programme.

SAME, including the Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology (ISCA), is located in a number of buildings along the Banbury Road, a few minutes' walk north of Oxford city centre. Some staff also work from the Pitt Rivers Museum's main building on South Parks Road, behind the University Museum of Natural History. ISCA is the largest graduate anthropology department in the UK, with around 80 to 100 students registered for taught course graduate degrees at any one time, and more than 90 doctoral projects currently underway. [Staff research interests](#) are wide-ranging and ISCA is also home to a large group of postdoctoral researchers and research affiliates. Do take the time to browse their [research profiles](#) (and seek contact with researchers whose work interests you).

This handbook provides information on the content and organisation of your course, and on matters relating to exams and assessment. The information provided here is meant to supplement the [SAME Graduate Handbook](#), and the [Examination Conventions](#) for the Visual, Material and Museum Anthropology degrees. Please do take the time to familiarise yourself with these documents. You can also refer to them at any time during the year.

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.

We hope you find this handbook useful. If you have any suggestions relating to it, these may be sent to the Course Director, [Elizabeth Hallam](#).



Viewing objects at a workshop in the Pitt Rivers Museum research area, 2019. Photo copyright; Nyema Droma.

Information for all students on Visual, Material and Museum Anthropology degrees

SAME is located in a number of buildings along the Banbury Road. 51 Banbury Road is the administrative hub where you can find the General Office staffed by friendly people who will be able to answer most of your queries. The office is normally staffed from 9am to 5pm (4 pm on Fridays). Lunch break is 1-2 pm and we ask that you respect this and refrain from making queries during the lunch hour.

Please consider whether you need to visit the office in person or whether your query can be resolved by email, phone, or via MS Teams.

Quick links and reference

Your academic year

Canvas - <https://canvas.ox.ac.uk/>

SAME website - <https://www.anthro.ox.ac.uk/>

Oxford Glossary - <https://www.ox.ac.uk/about/organisation/history/oxford-glossary>

Key Contacts

Title	Name	Email
Head of School	Dr David Pratten	hod@anthro.ox.ac.uk
Visual, Material and Museum Anthropology Course Director	Dr Elizabeth Hallam	elizabeth.hallam@anthro.ox.ac.uk
Graduate Courses Administrator	Mel Goodchild	Mel.goodchild@anthro.ox.ac.uk
Director of Graduate Studies (DGS)	Prof David Gellner (MT) Dr Elizabeth Ewart (HT/TT)	dgs@anthro.ox.ac.uk
Academic Administrator	Vicky Dean	vicky.dean@anthro.ox.ac.uk
Subject Librarian	Ms. Helen Worrell	helen.worrell@bodleian.ox.ac.uk
Balfour Librarian	Mark Dickerson	mark.dickerson@prm.ox.ac.uk
Fieldwork & CUREC queries	Kate Atherton	kate.atherton@anthro.ox.ac.uk

Core Teaching Staff

[Dr Chihab El Khachab](#)

[Dr Elizabeth \(Liz\) Hallam](#)

[Prof Clare Harris](#) (sabbatical MT22 & HT23)

[Dr Charlotte Linton](#)

Contributions are also made by other staff of SAME and of the Pitt Rivers Museum, particularly by:

[Dr Chris Morton](#)

[Dr Emily Stevenson](#)

If you need to see your tutor or any other member of staff for whatever reason, just email them.

Course overview

MSc overview

The MSc in Visual, Material, and Museum Anthropology is a 12-month course. You take four examined papers, including one option paper, and you complete a 10,000 word dissertation over the summer.

Paper 1 is examined by an essay submitted at the start of Hilary Term (with the mark released in the course of HT). Paper 2 is examined by either an essay submitted early in Trinity Term or by a one-week timed essay in Trinity Term, depending on the option chosen. Paper 3, on research methods, has two elements, and is submitted in Trinity Term. Paper 4 is examined by a one-week timed essay taken in Trinity Term. The dissertation is submitted for examination at the end of August.

MSc Learning Outcomes

After completing the MSc in Visual, Material, and Museum Anthropology, you should be able to:

- understand key areas of, and debates in, anthropology concerned with visual, material, and museum processes;
- understand and engage with anthropological concepts and theories, with particular reference to those relevant to VMMA;
- appreciate how different ways of knowing the world develop and change over time in social and material contexts;
- work effectively, appropriately, and creatively with research methods in visual, material, and museum anthropology;
- think critically about the politics of knowledge making, including the history and contemporary practice of anthropology;
- apply ideas in VMMA to different contexts and to diverse contemporary issues and problems.
- explore and present ideas using visual, material, and museum media.

In addition, your skills in analytical reading, conceptual thinking, oral communication of ideas, and clear writing should be enhanced.

MPhil overview

First year (MPQ)

The MPhil in Visual, Material & Museum Anthropology is a 2-year course. In the first year, known as the MPhil Qualifying (or MPQ) year, you take four examined papers, including one option paper. These must be passed with an average mark of 60 or more in order to proceed to the second year of your degree. The marks achieved at the end of your first year do not count towards your final MPhil degree result.

The MPQ year is identical to the MSc year with the exception that MPQ students do not complete a 10,000-word dissertation over the summer, instead carrying out preparatory work for their second year thesis.

Paper 1 is examined by an essay submitted at the start of Hilary Term (with the mark released in the course of HT). Paper 2 is examined by either an essay submitted early in Trinity Term or by a one-week timed essay in Trinity Term, depending on the option chosen. Paper 3, on research methods, has two elements, and is submitted in Trinity Term. Paper 4 is examined by a one-week timed essay taken in Trinity Term.

Second year (MPhil)

In the second year, you will spend most of the year researching and writing your 30,000 word MPhil thesis, which is submitted in Trinity Term. You will also take one more assessed option paper, and towards the middle of Trinity Term you will submit an assessed essay on a topic from within the field of Visual, Material and Museum Anthropology. A list of essay topics will be produced by the examiners for you to choose from.

MPhil Learning Outcomes

After completing the MSc in Visual, Material, and Museum Anthropology, you should be able to:

- understand key areas of, and debates in, anthropology concerned with visual, material, and museum processes;
- understand and engage with anthropological concepts and theories, with particular reference to those relevant to VMMA;
- appreciate how different ways of knowing the world develop and change over time in social and material contexts;
- work effectively, appropriately, and creatively with research methods in visual, material, and museum anthropology;
- think critically about the politics of knowledge making, including the history and contemporary practice of anthropology;
- apply ideas in VMMA to different contexts and to diverse contemporary issues and problems;
- pursue and develop an in-depth research project in VMMA over the course of nearly a year;
- explore and present ideas using visual, material, and museum media.

In addition, your skills in: analytical reading, conceptual thinking, oral communication of ideas, and clear writing should be enhanced.

Structure of teaching for Visual, Material & Museum Anthropology

The academic year in Oxford is divided into three 8-week terms, Michaelmas Term (MT), Hilary Term (HT) and Trinity Term (TT). Teaching is delivered primarily through lectures, classes and tutorials. At the start of each term, a [lecture list](#) is published with details of times and venues of lectures.

Canvas – Virtual Learning Environment

Canvas is our virtual learning environment where you will find course materials including recordings of lectures, course outlines, reading lists, and slides from lectures. You will be receiving an email notification, indicating that you have been added to the relevant Canvas site for your programme. If you are new to using Canvas, you may find the [Canvas Guide for Students](#) useful.

Where possible, we will aim to provide in-person and online hybrid teaching for the benefit of students who are not able to attend in person for medical reasons. Lecture recording will be clearly indicated during the Teams session and a copy will be deposited on Canvas.

You are strongly advised to download the desktop version of Microsoft Teams by the start of term.

Courses (Lecture Series)

Every year several courses (each composed of a series of lectures) on a variety of topics are available for students. Some of these courses are exclusively designed for MSc and MPhil students, while others are open to both undergraduates and postgraduate students. Options (of which you have to choose 1) take place in Hilary. Lecture attendance is not compulsory, but very strongly recommended. Some courses consist not only of lectures, but of a combination of lectures and discussion classes, and students are expected to actively participate in the latter.

VMMA students who do not already have a background in anthropology are encouraged to attend some of the lectures in the MSc in Social Anthropology. Please discuss this with your supervisor.

Classes

Classes are discussion groups usually associated with lectures in which students critically discuss, in small groups, the key texts relevant to the understanding of the lecture or of the general theme of the course. Attendance at these classes is expected of all MSc and MPhil students.

If you cannot attend your class in person, please notify your class convenor so that suitable arrangements can be made for remote participation via Teams.

Tutorials

Tutorials are an important feature of the way we teach the Visual, Material, and Museum Anthropology in SAME. They are usually taught to students in groups of around two to four with individually allocated tutors referred to as supervisor. For most, if not all, of your tutorials you will be working with your supervisor.

For each tutorial, you will be given an essay question, a reading list, and be expected to write an essay (of maximum 2,000 words), which you will submit in advance to your tutor. You

should come to your tutorial prepared to discuss the topic and your essay. Please be aware that tutorial topics, essay questions and reading lists may vary depending on your tutor. Therefore do not be alarmed if your friends with other tutors are covering different material to you. All the tutors are teaching within the syllabus and one of the strengths of the 'Oxford system' is that tutors can design tutorials to reflect their research interests and the needs of specific student groups.

You will be expected to submit your tutorial essay before the tutorial and individual tutors will let you know the deadline for your essay.

At the tutorial you should, among other things, expect to discuss the general topic, explore readings in greater depth, get feedback on your essay, clear up misunderstandings, examine possible critiques, and link the topic to wider knowledge and/or to topics covered during lectures. Importantly tutorials are opportunities for you to discuss your own understandings of the specific topic with your fellow student(s) and with the tutor.

In this way, tutorials are opportunities to learn collaboratively with your peers and tutors. Whilst lectures are learning events during which you are expected to absorb and take notes, keeping questions to the very end, tutorials are designed to be highly interactive. Their success depends in large measure on your ability to contribute, listen and engage with your peers. This may be a little daunting at first, but it is very important that you remember that tutorials are not formally assessed and you are not in competition with your peers.

At the tutorial, your tutor will return your essay to you, normally accompanied by some written feedback to complement the verbal feedback during the tutorial. Note that attendance of and submission of the required work for tutorials is a compulsory part of the degree. If you have difficulty attending or submitting work for a tutorial contact your tutor in good time in advance.

Supervision

From the start of Michaelmas Term students will be assigned a supervisor, who will be their first point of contact in successfully navigating the VMMA programme. Students will meet with their supervisors at the start and end of each term to discuss their plans, progress, and ideas for the degree.

Students will also have opportunities to discuss dissertation ideas with their supervisor, who will provide guidance with the student's chosen dissertation topic (providing suggested readings etc.). When developing their dissertations students may also consult with further members of the VMMA teaching team, depending on their particular interests. For MSc students' dissertation supervision, including supervision meetings which are arranged with their supervisor, lasts up to the end of June, but cannot be provided in July and August. Students should bear this in mind when planning their dissertation work.

Departmental Seminar (Friday Seminar)

Departmental seminars, where a researcher (either from this University or from another one) is invited to present their current research, are a quintessential part of most university

systems of learning. In most universities today, each Department has its own “Departmental Seminar”, and we are not different, though in our case we have nicknamed ours the “Friday seminar”. Attending Friday seminars and being curious about the research done by our colleagues, nationally and internationally is expected from anybody joining our School. The convention is that in MT and TT the Friday seminars focus on ISCA-related (i.e. social anthropology) themes; in HT, they are intended to appeal to the entire School.

In seminars the invited speaker usually talks for between 50 minutes and an hour, followed by some 30 to 60 minutes of general discussion, when members of the audience ask questions. Graduate students are warmly encouraged to join in the conversation and collaborate in making it a lively discussion. Participating in our Friday seminar is an essential part of your training as a social scientist. Seminars will offer you the unique opportunity to see how anthropology is applied today by the leading figures in the field, and they may even offer you very fresh data to invoke in your tutorial or class discussion, or even to back up your argument in an essay.

Our Friday seminar is not the only research seminar around Oxford. There are hundreds of research seminars every week all over the University, which constitutes a true embarrassment of riches.

[Oxford Talks](#) is a good source of information regarding events in the University. You are also advised to browse the events pages of individual departments.

Very often in our University the logic of time management forces members of the community to miss very interesting research seminars. Part of your training is time management too. Do not attempt to follow everything that this unique University offers. If you think that any particular week you would be learning more by attending a seminar different than our Friday seminar (at our School or, why not, beyond it), please discuss it with your supervisor before trying to take on many extra activities.

[Attending Other Lectures](#)

The core lectures, classes and seminars listed below are designed to provide a solid foundation in Visual, Material, and Museum Anthropology for MSc and MPQ students, whatever their background might be. Beyond this, lectures listed as our lecture list are in principle open to any member of the University and you are free to attend any lectures of your choice. As before though, please make sure you allocate sufficient time each week for independent study, reading and writing for your degree course. Students should consult their supervisor about lectures and specialist seminars beyond SAME, which they may wish to attend, to help gear choices towards their interests and the VMMA degrees.

[Expectation of Study](#)

Students are responsible for their own academic progress. During term time, the programme requires a substantial amount of reading and writing, which may sometimes be difficult to combine with other activities or duties. Try to concentrate on the essentials and follow the guidance of your supervisor. The vacation, when there are no lectures or seminars to attend (though there are many available online), is the time to do extra reading and reflection.

The School, like the University as a whole, takes the view that full-time courses require full-time study and that studying at Oxford does not allow sufficient time to earn one's living from paid employment simultaneously. The School's Teaching Committee has therefore drawn up guidelines for students wishing to take paid employment during term time (see [Graduate Handbook](#) and [Paid Work Guidelines for Oxford Graduate Students](#)). Note that it is not possible to study for any Master's degree within the School on a part-time basis in order to facilitate working while studying.

Oxford workloads can be demanding. If you encounter difficulties keeping the pace, please discuss them with your supervisor or College adviser, or both. Please reach out as soon as you start to feel you are struggling. The sooner you raise such concerns the more likely it is that we can support you in managing your workload.

A common reason leading students to feel they cannot cope is because they make the mistake of trying to read too much and/or too quickly. Please note that most of the time students are NOT expected to read all the readings on a reading list. In a typical course outline, the lecturer gives a very substantial reading list for each lecture or for the general course; very often, the lecturer will indicate a small number of core or essential readings, which you should make sure to read, if you have not already done so. Long reading lists are provided in order to orient you toward further and future reading, should you want to pursue the topic on your own at a later stage, or if you write an essay on that topic. If the lecture is accompanied by a class discussion, do not try to read everything superficially and quickly to prepare for the class. Start with the core readings, try to make the connection between them and the lecture, prepare some questions or raise some points to be discussed in the class, and then tackle a selection of the further readings. You are expected to arrive at a class having read with intelligence rather than with speed. You will learn collaboratively with your tutorial and class partners.

For tutorial reading, please make sure that you ask your supervisor how many of the readings in the reading list they think you ought to read in order to answer the question of the essay (as an average, they will be in the region of 7 or 8 articles or chapters). Supervisors usually make this very clear in their individual instructions. In some of the classes the convenor leading the class will give specific orientation on what and when to read in preparation for the class (e.g. two or three articles or book chapters per session).

Any further queries on expectations should be addressed to your supervisor or to the course director.

Reading Lists – ORLO

We will be using Oxford Reading Lists Online (ORLO) which you will find on the Canvas site. For each lecture course you will find a reading list with clickable links to any material available online.



Pop-up Lego mural made by passers-by, Changi Airport, Singapore, 2018. Photo copyright: Elizabeth Hallam.

The structure of the courses

In the following you will find information on lectures and classes that you are expected to follow, term by term.

MICHAELMAS TERM

Cultural Representations Lecture Series

Weeks 1-8

Thursdays 12.00-13.00, Pitt Rivers Museum Lecture (PRM) Theatre

Convenor: Dr Chihab El Khachab (CEK)

Lecturers: Prof. Inge Daniels (ID), Dr Chihab El Khachab (CEK), Dr Elizabeth Hallam (EH), Dr Charlotte Linton (CL), Dr Emily Stevenson (ES)

Week 1	Histories of Visual Anthropology (CEK)
Week 2	Social Lives of Things (EH)
Week 3	Anthropology, Film, and Cinema (CEK)
Week 4	Consumption (ID)
Week 5	Photography and Anthropology (ES)
Week 6	Anthropology, Museums, and Extraction (CL)
Week 7	Sound and Mediation (CEK)
Week 8	Digital Anthropology (CEK)

VMMA Post-lecture Discussion Class

Weeks 1-8

The Cultural Representations lecture series is supplemented by a half hour discussion class for VMMA students only that will take place after the lecture from 1.00 -1.30pm in the Pitt Rivers Museum Lecture Theatre. This class gives you the opportunity to put questions to the lecturer and to discuss the topic as a group.

VMMA Research Methods Classes

Weeks 1-8

Thursdays 14.30-18.00, Pitt Rivers Museum (PRM) Lecture Theatre

Apart from in week 1 when we all meet together in the main galleries of the Pitt Rivers Museum (PRM), the classes in this series will be held in the lecture theatre of the Pitt Rivers Museum. From week 2, students will be divided into two groups for separate sessions.

The time slots for the two groups are: 14.30-16.00 and 16.30-18.00

You will be emailed with your groups /time by VMMA course director, Dr Elizabeth Hallam.

Week 1: Introductory Session in the Pitt Rivers Museum - **14.00 – 16.00 (please note the time)**

Our first research methods class will be held on the Clore Balcony on the first floor in the main galleries of the Pitt Rivers Museum. All VMMA staff and students will gather together for this group discussion.

Week 2	Object/material biography as method (EH)
Week 3	Working with film and video (CEK)
Week 4	Working with museum objects (CL)
Week 5	Working with photographic collections (CM)
Week 6	Working with exhibitions (CL)
Week 7	Student presentations 1 (All staff) MS Teams
Week 8	Student presentations 2 (All staff) MS Teams

These classes are designed to introduce students to a variety of anthropological methods for thinking about material/visual culture and museums which may then be applied in research for your dissertation etc. They also help students to prepare to select an item to discuss in a presentation to be given to all staff and members of the VMMA cohort in the last two weeks of Michaelmas term. For those sessions, students should select an object/ display/ photograph/ film clip etc. either from the displays and collections of the Pitt Rivers Museum or from outside the museum, and prepare a short 10 minute (max.) presentation discussing how it might be analysed using one or more of the approaches discussed in the Research Methods classes. If you are not sure what to choose, please consult your supervisor. In previous years, students have presented on objects on display in the Pitt Rivers or from among the museum's collections, and on a wide range of examples from beyond its walls, including art works, consumer goods, film, photographs, digital/online 'objects' and so on.

Tutorials

MT Tutorial Topics and Dissertation/Paper 1 meeting

Week 1	Thinking through VMMA. Essay to be emailed to supervisor for first tutorial by Monday of week 2.*
Week 2	Tutorials on first week essays about VMMA
Week 3-4	Anthropology, Museums, and Colonialism
Week 5-6	Objects and Persons
Week 7-8	Vision and the Senses
Week 8	There will also be a group meeting for Dissertations & Paper 1 – for all students and staff.

**Following discussion of the themes of Week 1 in the Pitt Rivers, you will need to write an essay based on the readings for Week 1 and email it to your academic supervisor by Monday of 2nd week. They will then arrange a meeting to discuss it in week 2.*

Pitt Rivers Museum Research Seminar in Visual, Material, and Museum Anthropology
Fridays 12.00 – 1.30 pm Online on Teams

This series of talks by distinguished speakers from Oxford and beyond is a core element of the VMMA degrees and all VMMA students should attend. The list of speakers will be sent to you and will be available on the SAME website.

Film Series I : 'The Filmmaking Process'
Wednesdays 10.00 -12.00, 61 Banbury Road (CEK)

The ethnographic film series in Michaelmas will focus on the filmmaking process. The series introduces basic concepts in film studies as well as classic ethnographic films in the Euro-American tradition. From week 3 onwards, students will take turns to present each week's film and readings. Each presentation should be no more than 10 minutes and the presenter should bring up questions to guide the general discussion. Films should be viewed online in advance of the weekly discussions via Microsoft Stream.

Schedule:

Week 2	<i>Nanook of the North</i> (Robert Flaherty, 1922, 55 mins)
Week 3	<i>Chronicle of a Summer</i> (Jean Rouch and Edgar Morin, 1961, 90 mins)
Week 4	<i>Photo Wallahs</i> (David & Judith MacDougall, 1991, 60 mins)
Week 5	<i>Forest of Bliss</i> (Robert Gardner, 1986, 90 mins)
Week 6	<i>Masai Women</i> (from the <i>Disappearing World</i> series, Chris Curiling with M. Llewelyn Davis, 1974, 52 Minutes)
Week 7	<i>Marriage Egyptian Style</i> (Reem Saad & Joanna Head, 1991, 50 minutes)
Week 8	<i>Chocolate of Peace</i> (Gwen Burnyeat & Pablo Mejía Trujillo, 2016, 60 minutes)

In addition to the VMMA Research Methods classes, there is a weekly lecture that we recommend VMMA students attend:

Fieldwork - Theories & Methods

Tuesdays 10.00-11.00 Exam Schools

Convenors: *Dr Thomas Cousins & Dr Ina Zharkevich*

The aim of this course is to examine the relationship between anthropological theory and anthropological practice, with specific reference to field ethnography. It is aimed at all new graduate students in ISCA.

Each session will include a lecture on a key aspect of ethnographic fieldwork. It can be viewed as a stand-alone lecture series preparing you for ethnographic fieldwork and as an accompaniment to the lectures and classes on Theory and Approaches.

Lecture

Lecturers: *Dr Thomas D. Cousins, Dr Zuzanna Olszewska, Prof. Inge Daniels, Dr David Pratten, Prof. David Zeitlyn, Dr Ina Zharkevich, Dr Chihab El Khachab, Dr Charlotte Linton*

1. Participant observation (ZO)
2. Ethics in fieldwork (IZ)
3. Multi-sited fieldwork (ID)
4. Audio-visual Methods (CEK)
5. Interviews (DP)
6. Digital Ethnography (DZ)
7. Writing (TDC)
8. Working with Material Culture (CL)



Graffiti, Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge Mass., USA, 2019. Photo copyright: Elizabeth Hallam.

HILARY TERM

Option Courses

In Michaelmas Term you will be asked to select one option paper which will be taught in Hilary term. The form of teaching for the option courses varies according to the preferences of the Course Convenor, but typically takes the form of a combination of lectures and discussion classes that span Hilary Term.

In order to help you decide what options to take, there will be an Options Fair on the Friday of week 2 of Michaelmas Term, (the exact date and time to be confirmed), at which option coordinators introduce their options and are available to answer any questions you might have. You may also wish to discuss your option choices with your supervisor.

The following options running in 2022-2023 are likely to be of particular interest to VMMA students (note that the confirmed course outlines will be circulated in advance of the Options Fair):

Anthropology and Film

Dr Chihab El Khachab

This option explores the relationship between the discipline of social anthropology and the theory and practice of filmmaking over the past 125 years. Film was co-opted methodologically by social anthropology as a medium of record, which led to the growth and development of the genre of 'ethnographic film' and its media presence through television broadcasting and festivals. In parallel, over the past 30 years, anthropologists launched investigations into the meaning and making of commercial cinema across the globe. This option will explore both the use of film in anthropology and the anthropological study of commercial film through a wide range of topics: documentary and ethnographic filmmaking, indigenous media, cinema and nationalism, television audiences, filmmaking labour and technology, and digital visual anthropology. While the class will not include a practical component, participants are expected to present film clips as well as critical readings in their class presentations. The option is examined by assessed essay and it is expected that film clips will be included with the submission as well (as digital files).

Materials: Anthropological Explorations

Dr Elizabeth Hallam

Focusing on materials, this option explores key anthropological approaches and debates across visual, material and museum anthropology. How do anthropologists research and analyse material dimensions of the rapidly changing world? We will engage with anthropological work that shifts attention from material 'objects' to the dynamics of materials in wider environments, and which explores material aspects of human bodies, plants and other species, buildings and sculptural artefacts. Examining processes of living, growing, and dying, as well as the design and afterlife of materials, we will consider key questions relating to: the generation of form; dynamics of change and transformation; the interrelation of matter and meaning and knowledge production; and the social, subjective, sensory and affective aspects of materials. How relationships – including those of power and authority -

are forged, altered, maintained and severed through material practices over time, is also a central concern. We will explore theoretical issues through study in museums and through a hands-on anthropological project involving sketching, digital photography, digital video, and a collective mini exhibition.

Objects in Motion: Debates in Visual, Material and Economic Anthropology

Prof Inge Daniels

This option explores key anthropological debates about the production, circulation and consumption of commodities through the lenses of markets, religion, and tourism. Drawing on comparative examples from around the world, but with a particular focus on East Asia, the aim is to critically examine contentious issues surrounding commodification, globalisation and cross-cultural circulation of people and things. Topics discussed include the exchange of commodities within gift economies; the impact of commercialisation upon spiritual forms; tourism and notions of authenticity; money, markets and the ethics of global trade; advertising and visual economies, the Internet and mobile technologies, and disposal and the second-hand economy.

Anthropology and Difference: Gender and Race in Fiction Film

Dr Lola Martinez

How can we, as anthropologists, research and analyse narratives, particularly popular filmic narratives? Building both on anthropological and sociological theories of narration and its role in constructing our realities, and with a focus on narratives that most closely resemble mythic storytelling (science fiction and horror films), this course examines the social construction of 'difference' in modernity, particularly in relation to gender and race. We also will consider how, from the 1980s, these film genres have negotiated social change through their portrayal of new types of hero. The course is designed to help students understand some of the crucial issues facing anthropology in the twenty-first century: how to analyse modernity as a social construct; and how to think critically about one's own society and its reiterated narratives. There will be a set film (which will be made available to students) to be viewed each week. In week 1 there will be a lecture, from week 2 there will be student presentations of 20 minutes on any film(s) related to the course themes, followed by a class discussion.

Cultural Representations Lecture Series (cont)

Weeks 1-8

Thursdays 12.00-13.00, Pitt Rivers Museum Lecture Theatre

Convenor: Dr Chihab El Khachab (CEK)

Lecturers: Prof. Inge Daniels (ID), Dr Elizabeth Hallam (EH), Dr Charlotte Linton (CL), Dr Emily Stevenson (ES) Prof. Laura Van Broekhoven (LVB), Prof. David Zeitlyn (DZ)

Week 1	Text and Materiality (EH)
Week 2	Bodies in Anthropology (EH)
Week 3	Materials: Anthropological Debates (EH)
Week 4	Material Environments and Spatial Phenomena (ID)
Week 5	Colonialism, Collecting, and Contemporary Debates (LVB)
Week 6	Anthropology and Archives (DZ)
Week 7	Anthropology, Art, and Aesthetics (ES)
Week 8	Anthropology and Design (CL)

VMMA Post-lecture Discussion class

Weeks 1-8

The Cultural Representations lecture series is supplemented by a half hour discussion class for VMMA students only that will take place after the lecture from 1.00 -1.30pm in the Pitt Rivers Museum Lecture Theatre. This class gives you the opportunity to put questions to the lecturer and to discuss the topic as a group.

VMMA Research Methods Classes

Weeks 1-8

Thursdays 14.30-18.00, Pitt Rivers Museum Lecture Theatre

There will be two groups in two time slots: 14.30-16.00 and 16.30-18.00

Information on your times and groups will be sent by the series convenor, Dr Elizabeth Hallam.

These classes are compulsory for VMMA students and are part of the preparation for Paper 3. In HT they are also taken as the stand-alone 'VMMA Methods Module' by other students of SAME, and there is a cap of 6).

Week 1	Introduction to the VMMA Methods Module; and walking as method (EH)
Week 2	Sketching as method and analysis (EH)
Week 3	Working with material entities: observation and digital photography (EH)
Week 4	Photo elicitation (CL)
Week 5	Digital methods (tbc) (ES)
Week 6	Museum Methods: Labelling Matters (tbc)
Week 7	Student presentations 1 (All staff) MS Teams
Week 8	Student presentations 2 (All staff) MS Teams

For weeks 7 and 8, you should prepare a 10 minute (max.) presentation about one or more methods that you plan to use in your methods portfolio (Paper 3b). The method(s) that you present can be related to a different topic from the ones you may eventually use in your

dissertation but the aim is to get feedback on the method(s) that you are planning to use. Your focus should be on visual, material or museum anthropological methods that you think will enable you to answer a particular question, while also considering the strengths and weaknesses of the proposed method. You should draw on what you have learned in the VMMA classes and the 'Fieldwork - Theories & Methods' lectures that are provided for all students in the School.

Students are reminded that while full ethics clearance (the CUREC process) is not required for these exercises, all human subjects involved in the exercises (e.g. as interview subjects) must be made aware of the nature of the exercise.

[Tutorials \(time and place varies\)](#)

HT Tutorial Topics and Dissertation/Paper 3 meeting

Week 1-2	Text and Materiality
Week 3-4	Materials: Anthropological Approaches
Week 5-6	Art and anthropology
Week 7	Reading week
Week 8	On Tuesday 7th March 11.00-12.30 there will be an online class on dissertations and preparing for Paper 3 (All students and staff)

[Pitt Rivers Museum Research Seminar in Visual, Material, and Museum Anthropology](#)

Fridays 12.00-13.30, Online on Teams

This series of talks by outside speakers reflecting on their research continues in HT.

[Ethnographic Film Series II: 'Postcolonial and Decolonial Theory'](#)

Wednesdays 10.00-12.00, 61 Banbury road (CEK)

The ethnographic film series in Hilary will focus on debates surrounding postcolonialism and decoloniality. Each ethnographic film is paired with a theoretical key reading in postcolonial and decolonial theory, which should be read each week with attention to the reading's inner structure, its connections with other readings and films, and its wider historical and political context. Building on the previous term's acquired knowledge in film analysis, students will take turns to present each week's film and reading. Each presentation should be no more than 10 minutes and the presenter should bring up questions to guide the general discussion. Films should be viewed online in advance of the weekly discussions via Microsoft Stream.

Schedule:

Week 1	<i>Navajo Film Themselves</i> (seven short films by Mike Anderson, Al Clah, Susie, Benally, Johnny Nelson, Mary Jane Tsosie and Maxine Tsosie, and Alta Kahn, 1966, 144 minutes in total)
Week 2	<i>To Live with Herds</i> (David and Judith MacDougall, 1972, 70 mins)
Week 3	<i>Trobriand Cricket</i> (Gary Kildea and Jerry Leach, 1973, 50 mins)
Week 4	<i>Fad'jal</i> (Safi Faye, 1979, 113 mins)
Week 5	<i>Reassemblage</i> (Trinh T. Min-ha, 1982, 39 mins)
Week 6	<i>Divorce Iranian Style</i> (Ziba Mir-Hosseini & Kim Longinotto, 1991, 75 mins)
Week 7	<i>Brincando el Charco</i> (Frances Negrón-Muntaner, 1994, 55 mins)
Week 8	<i>Les Sauteurs</i> (Esthephan Wagner, Moritz Siebert & Abou Bakar Sidibé, 2016)

TRINITY TERM

VMMA Classes

Weeks 1-5

Thursdays 14.00-16.00

These sessions are primarily aimed at revision for Paper 4, and they will also include a dissertation preparation workshop for all VMMA students. Students will give a short presentation on their dissertation plans and staff and other students will give feedback.

Pitt Rivers Museum Research Seminar in VMMA

Fridays 12.00-13.30, Online on Teams

This seminar series continues for the first 4 weeks of Trinity Term.

Dissertation (MSc) and Thesis (MPQ/MPhil)

In the case of MSc students, your dissertation ideas, preparation and writing will be developed over the course of the academic year. The dissertation, on a subject selected in consultation with the supervisor, should be no more than 10,000 words. Sessions designed to help you prepare for the dissertation will begin at the end of Michaelmas Term. Your supervisor will be able to provide feedback on your work to date each term up to the end of June. Thereafter completion of the dissertation is a piece of independent research with no further input from your supervisor.

During the course of Hilary Term students should begin to think in earnest about their dissertation topic. It should be noted that the topic should not be identical to one selected for an assessed coursework essay, and, although it can build upon the Paper 3 research proposal, this is not a requirement. Ethnographic fieldwork is not required, though it may be possible to, for example, conduct a small number of interviews as the basis of a case study. Note that **any** research involving living human subjects requires ethical clearance (via submission of a CUREC form available from the SAME website) and, if overseas travel is involved (including to a student's home country), a risk assessment; see <https://www.anthro.ox.ac.uk/safety-fieldwork-and-ethics>

Generally, it is expected that the dissertation will constitute an original piece of research, drawing upon primary and/or secondary visual and textual materials, that addresses a well formulated anthropological question, with a clear VMMA focus. As with the assessed coursework essays, inclusion of visual material in the dissertation is strongly encouraged.

In the case of MPQ students, thesis ideas will be developed over the course of the academic year. You may undertake fieldwork or other research over the summer of your MPQ year, in which case you will need to retain regular contact with your supervisor; in your MPhil year (2nd year) your supervisor will provide ongoing supervision as you progress your thesis.

Please note that if you intend to interview or observe any human participants outside the School, you will need to obtain ethical clearance, via our departmental research ethics committee. Details of procedures can be found on the SAME website (as above).

For any questions in relation to ethical clearance procedures, please contact [Kate Atherton](#)

MPhil Visual, Material & Museum Anthropology – Second Year

In the 2nd year of the MPhil degree you will be expected to devote the bulk of your time to researching and writing a 30,000 word MPhil thesis (footnotes included, but bibliography and appendices excluded). Your supervisor will support you in this and hold meetings with you. There will be fewer lectures and classes to attend, though we expect all 2nd year MPhil students to continue to come to the PRM Research Seminar in VMMA on Fridays. You may also wish to attend 'Cultural Representations' lectures on topics you may have missed or that were not given in the first year. Other lectures and seminars across the University may be relevant for your dissertation research, and your supervisor can advise on this. All 2nd year MPhil students will select one option paper to be taken in Hilary term, which is not the option paper on which they were examined in the first year of the course, and one Methods Module.

After submitting your thesis you will be expected to write one assessed essay on a topic in the field of Visual, Material, and Museum Anthropology, chosen from a list of questions issued by the examiners. You will have two weeks in which to write this essay. In Trinity Term, VMMA tutors will provide a class to help prepare for this essay.

MPhil Thesis

MPhil students should begin planning this during their first year of studies. Supervision for dissertations will not be available over the summer months, so students should ensure that they have taken all the advice they need from their supervisor before the end of Trinity Term.

Fieldwork is not a requirement for the MPhil. Nevertheless, depending on the project, some MPhil students may wish to conduct brief field enquiries during the summer months between the two years of the degree. They then should discuss feasibility with their supervisor, ideally at the end of Hilary Term of the first year. Please note that if you intend to interview or observe any human participants outside the School, you will need to obtain ethical clearance, via our departmental research ethics committee. Details of procedures can be found on the SAME website (as above). Approval of these forms by the CUREC committee can take up to six weeks, and must be obtained before fieldwork starts.

MICHAELMAS TERM

Fieldwork Essentials class

Weeks 1-5, MT

Convenors: Prof David Zeitlyn and Prof David Gellner

During Michaelmas Term the first five weeks feature essential introductions to a range of procedural and skill acquisition matters that will form a foundation for engagement with fieldwork and/or other forms of data collection. Sessions include topics such as: doctoral

training approaches and resources; fieldwork and data collection; library and research resources; ethical research practice in the field; and fieldwork health and safety.

Critical Readings MPhil Class

8 sessions

Convenors: Dr Zuzanna Olszewska and Dr Ina Zharkevich

In this class students critically engage with ethnographic theory and writing, with presentations and debates around selected texts.

Departmental Seminar

8 seminars

Convenors: Dr Ina Zharkevich & Dr Chihab El Khachab

HILARY TERM

MPhil Thesis writing Class

8 sessions

Convenors: Dr Zuzanna Olszewska & Dr Elizabeth Ewart

In this class students take it in turns to present excerpts from their MPhil thesis to the rest of the class who offer comments and constructive feedback. Two members of teaching staff normally chair the sessions.

Departmental Seminar

8 seminars

Convenors: Dr Eben Kirksey & Dr Javier Lezaun

Option Paper

8 sessions

In week 2 of Michaelmas Term you will be asked to select one option paper, which must be different to the option you followed in your 1st year. The option will be taught in Hilary term. The form of teaching for the option courses varies according to the preferences of the Course Convenor, but typically takes the form of a combination of lectures and discussion classes that span Hilary Term.

In order to help you decide what options to take, there will be an Options Fair on Friday of week 2 of Michaelmas Term, at which option coordinators introduce their options and are available to answer any questions you might have. You may also wish to discuss your option choices with your supervisor.

You will find details of available options on Canvas.

TRINITY TERM

Departmental Seminar

5 sessions

Note that one of the departmental seminars of Trinity term is replaced by the Marett Lecture hosted by Exeter College.

Methods Modules and Practical Training

Convenor: Dr Zuzanna Olszewska

Each student is required to attend a minimum of two methods modules, totalling no less than 12 classes. The majority of modules are held in MT and HT, though some may also be offered in TT. Most methods modules classes are 90 mins long and held throughout six weeks.

All methods modules will be presented in the Fieldwork Essentials class in Michaelmas Term, week 1. Some methods modules convenors may have to cap the numbers of participants they can accept, hence students are requested to sign up for and rank three modules they wish to attend in the order of their preference.

At the end of each methods module, each participant is asked to write up a practical task (minimum length: one A4 page) and/or submit a 2,500 word long essay, following the instructions of the methods module convenor. This writing will be assessed but not marked.

Research Ethics

Please note that if, as part of your methods module, you intend to interview or observe any human participants outside the School, you will need to obtain ethical clearance, via our departmental research ethics committee. Details of procedures can be found on our website [here](#). For any questions in relation to ethical clearance procedures, please contact [Kate Atherton](#)

Anyone wishing to take, as one of their two methods courses, another course from within the university that is appropriate to their needs, in place of one offered in SAME, should first seek endorsement from their supervisor and then approach the Research Methods Training Convenor to seek approval.

Important dates

MSc & MPQ Visual, Material & Museum Anthropology important dates

MICHAELMAS TERM

- Friday week 2: Options Fair
- Friday week 3: Submit option choices via the online form (details circulated in advance)
- Friday week 7: Essay titles released for Paper 1: Contemporary themes in Visual, Material and Museum Anthropology

HILARY TERM

- Thurs week 1: Submit Paper 1 essay
- Week 7: Receive mark and brief feedback on Paper 1 essay
- Friday week 7: Option paper titles released (where appropriate)

TRINITY TERM

- Thurs week 0: Submit Option paper essay (where appropriate)
Thurs week 4: Submit Paper 3
Thurs week 5: Submit *preliminary* dissertation title and synopsis form via Microsoft Forms to Mel Goodchild
Monday week 5: Paper 4: Fundamental Concepts in Visual, Material, and Museum Anthropology examination released
Monday week 6: Submit paper 4

Results for the four papers are normally available by the last week of June, via Student Self-Service Gateway.

MSc VMMA only: Last Wednesday in August, noon: submit Dissertation

Results for the MSc VMMA are normally available through the Student Self-Service Gateway by the very end of September.

MPhil 2nd Year important dates

MICHAELMAS TERM

- Monday week 2: Submit *final* thesis title and synopsis to Mel Goodchild.
Friday week 3: Submit option choices via the online form (details circulated in advance)

HILARY TERM

- Friday week 7: Option paper titles released (where appropriate)

TRINITY TERM

- Thursday week 0: Submit Option paper essay (where appropriate)
Thursday week 2: Submit **Thesis**
Thursday week 5: Submit **Assessed Essay**

Assessment

Information on Oxford University assessment and examination process can be found [here](#). Full details of the structure of assessment of the MSc and MPhil in Visual, Material, and Museum Anthropology, including marking criteria for each assessed component, are detailed in the [Examination Conventions](#) for the degrees.

Submitted work

All assessments will be submitted online via [Inspera](#). Ensure you are familiar with the online submission process in advance of any deadline. Full information is provided on the [Oxford students' website](#).

[Paper 1: Contemporary themes in Visual, Material and Museum Anthropology](#)

One essay of no more than 5,000 words, released on Friday 25 November 2022 to be submitted by noon on Thursday 19 January 2023.

We expect the work to consist primarily of written text, adhering to usual academic standards of presentation and referencing. Where relevant, still images, diagrams, sketches, etc., can be inserted directly into the text at the appropriate point, or gathered together as an appendix. In addition, students may wish to include short 'video quotations' from ethnographic or other films, or wish to animate a sequence of still images to make a particular point. For this, students can insert sound files or clips directly into the text document or can submit them as separate files at the same time. Any supporting multimedia materials that are not embedded within the essay file should be submitted as a single file separately to the 'Accompanying Media' part of the submission site, named in the same way as the essay text submission (full instructions appear on the submission site). This material may be embedded in a separate document (e.g. Word or PowerPoint) or may use any other readily-accessible file type (e.g. MP3, MP4, wav etc.). Submission of additional supporting materials of this sort is optional. Whatever form of presentation is chosen, the text document and any accompanying material should be clearly cross-referenced.

[Paper 2: Option Paper](#)

Either one essay of no more than 5,000 words, released on Friday 3 March to be submitted by noon on Thursday 20 April 2023, or by two essays of no more than 2,500 words each, to be assessed in mid Trinity Term.

Candidates must select one option paper from those taught each year for MSc candidates of the School of Anthropology.

[Paper 3: Research Methods](#)

This paper must be submitted not later than noon on the Thursday 18th May 2023. It consists of two elements and should be presented as such:

Paper 3a is an outline Research Proposal of no more than 2,500 words. A template will be provided for the proposal by Friday 3rd March 2023.

Paper 3b is a Methods Portfolio consisting of a report on a trial of ONE visual or material or museum anthropological method. This should include some brief discussion of other visual, material and museum research methods which you have studied and/or the relevant published literature on research methods.

The word limit is 2,500 words. A contents page indexing the materials presented should also be included, as should a short overview document that introduces the portfolio and relates the various pieces to the published literature on research methods.

Some Guidance for Preparing the Methods Portfolio

Methods may include: anything relating to material, visual (photography, film, artworks etc.), museum, or archival/historical data used for the dissertation. Plus, topics such as the analysis

of historical sources, photo or object elicitation, participant observation, museum visitor analysis, analysis of exhibition or museum design and anything you have learned/been exposed to on the VMMA course that is relevant to your dissertation data gathering.

You can do short trials of the methods you are interested in. Once you have determined the method you will focus on in the Methods Portfolio, you should create short trials or tests of that method. For instance, if you will be using participant observation, you should find a situation in which you can be a participant observer, take notes, and write up the exercise. If you are using forms of visual analysis of historical photographs, do a test run of that process and write up how you did it and how it worked (or how it failed). As this is a course exercise, you do not need CUREC (research ethics clearance) approval for the trials.

In your write-up for the Methods Portfolio, focus on briefly describing the method, how you tested the method, and the strengths and weaknesses of the method for your purposes. Use citations to relevant theoretical literature about the methodology.

Feel free to be creative in your testing of the method. However, we encourage you to submit the work in a standard A4 format, using standard Harvard-style bibliographic and textual formatting. Images, sound clips, video and other evidence may be attached but note that they should take no more than 30 minutes viewing or listening time.

[Paper 4: Fundamental Concepts in Visual, Material, and Museum Anthropology](#)

This is a one-week timed-essay exam paper. Tutorial teaching and essays, the Cultural Representations lectures, and the VMMA seminar are all sources to assist students in preparing for this paper. The MSc and MPhil are intended in part as the first step of a research training programme, and students are also encouraged to show familiarity and competence with material learned through independent reading.

For the exam paper, students answer two 2,500 word essays from a choice of 9 questions. The paper focuses on anthropology's distinctive contribution to understanding social and cultural form and process, and the role of human creativity within them, with particular reference to artefacts of material and visual culture, and to the collection, display, production, circulation and consumption of such artefacts. Attention will be paid to the subject's history and its place within broader concerns of politics, colonialism, and culture; issues of power and identity in relation to visual, material and museum anthropology; the formation of museum collections and visual archives; and also to the place of the socio-cultural in constituting such 'natural' phenomena as ecology, landscape, and population. The scope of this paper includes the following topics: the history and development of anthropological photography and object analysis, of documentary and ethnographic film, and of visual display in and beyond museums; an introduction to film and photographic theory, to material culture theory and to anthropological theories of representation, exchange and consumption; the Colonial archive and Colonial documentary practices; the ethnography of film, photography and other visual representational practices.

[Marking criteria](#)

Details of the marking criteria used by examiners in assessing coursework and examinations can be found as the Appendices of the [Examination Conventions](#). These guidelines are

definitive, however in the event that any alterations become necessary, details of these changes will be circulated to all students well in advance of the examinations.

Problems completing your assessment

There are a number of University processes in place to help you if you find that illness or other personal circumstances are affecting your assessments or if you experience technical difficulties with an online exam or submission. Full information is available on the [Oxford students' website](#).

Examination Adjustments

You should apply for exam adjustments after matriculation and no later than Friday of Week 4 of the term before the exam is due to take place. It is your responsibility to request exam adjustments and provide any supporting evidence required. Requests may, for urgent reasons, be considered nearer to the date of your exam.

Past papers

Information on past examination papers can be found on Canvas or by searching for 'OXAM' in the Bodleian catalogue, [SOLO](#) and then selecting the relevant programme and paper.

Any candidate who anticipates problems with meeting submission deadlines should contact their college at the earliest opportunity, not the examiners or anyone else in the School.

Prizes

SAME awards the following annual MSc, MPhil and DPhil prizes:

The **Professor Marcus Banks Dissertation Prize** for the best use of visual methods

The **Dr Nicola Knight Dissertation Prize** for the best use of quantitative methods

The **Professor David Parkin Dissertation Prize** for the best use of ethnographic methods



One of the very few men in Jamnagar, India, with a camera in the 1960s showing one of his photographs.
Photo copyright: Marcus Banks.

Examination Conventions

The [Examination conventions](#) for MSc and MPhil in Visual, Material & Museum Anthropology are an essential complement for this handbook, and should be read in detail.

The 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, and use of viva voce examinations, penalties for late submission, and penalties for over-length work.

Progression

MPQ students must obtain an average of 60 in the first year exams in order to proceed to the second year of the MPhil. Any candidate failing to reach 60 will be expected to transfer to the MSc.

Any student wishing to continue to the DPhil, may apply for readmission and successful candidates will need to achieve a minimum Merit mark of 67 to meet the condition of offer.

Opportunities to provide evaluation and feedback

We ask students to fill in termly course evaluation surveys, either online or on paper (anonymously) for each core teaching session. We use this to improve future sessions. Good and bad feedback is welcomed!

Students on full-time 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 [here](#).

Feedback and Learning

You will receive feedback continuously throughout your degree, in the form of verbal and written feedback from your tutors and supervisor.

Learning is not downloading information from a book or from a wise person's brain to your own head or to typing hands. It is rather a dialogic experience. You read, you listen to someone (a lecturer, a tutor, a seminar speaker, a class mate etc.) and then you speak or write something. This is an essential part, but if you are then not told whether what you said or wrote was interesting or innovating, whether it made sense or a good point, etc., you will not be moving ahead in the improvement of your reasoning skills. Therefore, providing you with "feedback" is a fundamental part of our way of training and of our tutorial system. During a tutorial, a supervisor discusses what you have written and provides oral and written feedback to help you move on in your writing and thinking. However, please note that, precisely because we want to stress the effect of feedback on your ability to improve your reasoning strategies, the supervisor does not provide a mark for the essay, but rather engaging comments, either on why they think the essay is not well argued, or on why they think it is a brilliant piece of work (or somewhere in the middle).

The School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography do not offer formal feedback on summative assignments with 5000 words or less. Any summative work over 5001 words will receive feedback. All students will receive written feedback on any dissertation or thesis of 5,001 words or over, submitted in the final term of the course, normally by email after completion of marking.

Entering for the University examinations

Details of how to enter for the exam as well as other useful exam-related advice and information can be found on the [University Examinations and Assessments](#) site.

Results are normally available by the last week of June, via Student Self-Service Gateway. Final MSc Visual, Material & Museum Anthropology results normally become available in the last week of September, via Student Self-Service Gateway.

Advice on tutorial essay writing

Tutorial assignments usually consist of answering a question on the basis of some suggested readings, given to you by your supervisor at least one week in advance. If possible, consult every text that is suggested, but be selective in choosing the most appropriate material with which to answer the question. Do not be afraid to bring in additional material, whether something you have learned from a lecture or seminar, something you have read in a different context (perhaps for a previous essay, or by independent study), or information from an ethnographic film.

Your supervisor will advise you on the expected length of your tutorial essays. Every essay should be accompanied by a bibliography listing all the works cited in your essay. Advice on formatting your bibliography can be found in the [SAME Graduate Handbook](#).

Tutorial essays are above all teaching tools, they allow you to try out arguments, juxtapose different authors, explore ethnographic case studies and explore specific topics in some detail. Remember that tutorial essays are not formally assessed, though you will receive feedback, normally both written as well as verbal during the tutorial which should allow you to understand what aspects of your essay were successful and where you may need to work on improving.

You will be expected to submit your essays to a clear deadline, and you will need to manage your time carefully, dividing it up into reading time, thinking time and writing time.

Like most skills, tutorial essay writing requires practice and you should treat essays as opportunities to learn, rather than expecting your essay to be a work of perfection. Your supervisor will be happy to discuss your progress and any specific issues arising from your essays.

Do not worry if your friends working with other supervisors are working on different topics or are asked to read different material. All supervisors are teaching to the syllabus for the core paper, but they may vary their readings in line with their own areas of expertise and research interests as well as those of the cohort of students they happen to be working with.

The University offers a range of [study skills training](#) including guidance on academic good practice, definitions of plagiarism, as well as skills such as time management, note-taking, referencing, research and library skills, and information literacy. You are strongly encouraged to make use of these resources.

Good academic practice and avoiding plagiarism

Plagiarism

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. Take a look at the guidance [here](#).

Under the regulations for examinations, intentional or reckless plagiarism is a disciplinary offence. For guidance on correct citation formatting please see the [SAME Graduate Handbook](#).

The best way of avoiding plagiarism is to learn and employ the principles of good academic practice from the beginning of your university career. Avoiding plagiarism is not simply a

matter of making sure your references are all correct, or changing enough words so the examiner will not notice your paraphrase; it is about deploying your academic skills to make your work as good as it can be.

There is clear information and advice on [how to avoid plagiarism](#) in the Study Skills section of the University website.

The University offers two [online self-study courses](#) that will help you in understanding what constitutes plagiarism and how to avoid it.

You are *strongly advised* to take these courses early in your time here.

The Bodleian library also subscribes to an online resource that gives guidance on citation and referencing.

[Cite Them Right](#) online shows how to reference a variety of different sources, including many less common ones, using different styles including Harvard, Vancouver & MLA amongst others. It can either be browsed by categories listed in the toolbars at the top of the Cite Them Right webpage or searched by keyword e.g. “EU Directive”. It then provides examples of the in text and full citations and a box with the reference format which then can be overtyped and copied and pasted into a document. It also has a Basics section that provides information and tutorials about why to reference, avoiding plagiarism, setting out citations and creating bibliographies.

Use of Third Party Proof-Readers

Students have authorial responsibility for the written work they produce. Proof-reading represents the final stage of producing a piece of academic writing. Students are strongly encouraged to proof-read their own work, as this is an essential skill in the academic writing process. However, for longer pieces of work it is considered acceptable for students to seek the help of a third party for proof-reading. Such third parties can be professional proof-readers, fellow students, friends or family members.

Note: The use of third party proof-readers is not permitted for work where the word limit is fewer than 10,000 words.

The University has produced [detailed guidance on the use of third party proof-readers](#) and you are strongly advised to consult this.

Fieldwork Safety and Training

Fieldwork

Many students can, as part of their course, undertake fieldwork providing it is safe and practical to do so. However it is not compulsory and does not always fit in the MSc and MPQ timeframe.

Fieldwork is considered as any research activity contributing to your academic studies which is carried out away from university premises, and must be approved by your department. 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.

Further information on fieldwork can be found here:

<https://www.anthro.ox.ac.uk/safety-fieldwork-and-ethics#collapse389441>

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 a travel risk assessment form. 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 suitable travel insurance. Your department also needs accurate information on where you are, and when and how to contact you while you are away. The travel assessment process should help 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.

Social Sciences Division Researcher Development Fieldwork Training (termly)

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

- **Safety in Fieldwork.** A half day course for those carrying out social science research in rural and urban contexts
- **Vicarious trauma workshops.** For research on traumatic or distressing topic areas or contexts.

Safety Office courses <https://safety.admin.ox.ac.uk/training> (termly)

- Emergency First Aid for Fieldworkers.
- Fieldwork Safety Overseas: A full day course geared to expedition based fieldwork.
- Fieldwork and overseas travel risk assessment for fieldworkers and travellers: A 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>

Facilities

The VMMA programme makes extensive use of the Pitt Rivers Museum (PRM) galleries and teaching spaces, including the PRM Lecture Theatre.

The School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography has numerous facilities for students, full details are below:

Methods Room

At 43 Banbury Road, on the ground floor, there is a dedicated methods space, where students can trial, test, design, and discuss the methods they learn in classes. Students will be introduced to the space at the start of Michaelmas Term, and are encouraged to make full, and creative, use of it to develop their methods practice. The space is coordinated by Dr Elizabeth Hallam, please contact her if you have any questions.

51-53 Banbury Road

- A general study space (ground floor)
- Hot desk computers and printer
- Common room (ground floor)
- Silent study space (basement)
- Lockers (ground floor)
- Kitchen (first floor)

43 Banbury Road (access via car park)

- Seminar room (15-20 people max)
- Kitchen (ground floor)
- Lockers (ground floor)
- Study room (ground floor)
- DPhil study room (first floor)

61 Banbury Road

- Seminar room (40 people max)

64 Banbury Road

- Seminar room (60 people max)
- Common room
- Kitchen

Libraries and Museums

All students have access to the [Pitt Rivers Museum](https://www.prm.ox.ac.uk/about-us) (PRM), and will receive a tour in their induction week.

The PRM has one of the most significant collections of its kind in the world, and its presence is a key feature of Visual, Material, and Museum Anthropology at Oxford. For an introduction to the PRM see its website at: <https://www.prm.ox.ac.uk/about-us>

The collections comprise some 300,000 objects and c. 250,000 photographic objects from all over the world and from 1850s onwards. The collections offer an invaluable starting point for research projects. Ideas for research with museum objects should be discussed in the first instance with Dr Elizabeth Hallam and Dr Charlotte Linton (as Clare Harris (Curator for Asian Collections) is on sabbatical for MT and TT 2022-23). Ideas for research with photographs, manuscripts, sound or film should be discussed in the first instance with Chris Morton (Head of Curatorial, Research and Teaching at the PRM) [christopher.morton@prm.ox.ac.uk]. Students should keep in mind that object research normally may require a two-month lead-time for retrieval of objects. Once projects have a rough delineation, appointments to consult original material can be organized.

All students have access to the **Social Sciences Library (SSL)** at the Manor Road Building. Students may also use other departmental libraries and their own college library. The Pitt Rivers Museum and centre has its own library (the [Balfour Library](#)). All registered students of the university and some other categories may use the main Bodleian Library and its dependent libraries.

The ISCA Digital Video Library contains over 200 titles, but only a selection is digitally available via Microsoft Stream. The digital video library is accessible to all VMMA students in the first instance, and any ISCA student who wishes to gain access to the library can contact Dr Chihab El Khachab. The physical library is still available as well: DVDs are located in Building Manager Andrew MacDonald's office at 51 Banbury Road; VHS tapes are located in the basement seminar room at 53 Banbury Road. All ISCA students – graduate and undergraduate – may borrow DVDs and tapes to watch in the common room when it is free. The University also has a subscription to Alexander Street Ethnographic Video Online (anth.alexanderstreet.com/) and Kanopy. The Bodleian Libraries contain a small number of ethnographic films on DVD – these can be found by searching SOLO and are available at the Social Sciences library.

Student representation

There are numerous opportunities to become involved with the administration of the School as each SAME committee has at least two elected student members. The student representatives should report to the JCC.

Joint Consultative Committee (JCC)

The Graduate Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) meets once a term, and consists of student representatives from each of the graduate degrees and volunteer members from the staff body. It provides a forum for discussion and negotiation between the students and staff concerning a range of matters that arise throughout the year. Points for the agenda are suggested by students and staff, but the JCC is always chaired by a student.

Recent issues that have been raised include student involvement with the School Seminar, the structure of various lectures, the ground floor space in 51-53 Banbury Road, the re-writing of the Handbooks, and the fostering of links between the various degrees. The JCC is closely

linked to the OUAS, and it is hoped that through these forums, any issue may be appropriately considered.

Current Chair of the JCC is [Yinglei Chen](#).

Oxford University Anthropological Society (OUAS)

Founded in 1909, the Anthropological Society works to promote an interest in anthropology and to support students and researchers in anthropology at Oxford University. It is run by and for both students and staff of the School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography.

Every year, the Society holds a variety of events to promote the social and intellectual life of the School and those interested in anthropology. If you have any suggestions for events, please get in touch with the committee. Further information [here](#).

The current President is [Niklas Hartmann](#).

Division and University representation

Student representatives sitting on the Divisional Board are selected through a process organised by the Oxford University Student Union (Oxford SU).

Details can be found on the [Oxford SU website](#) along with information about student representation at the University level.

Student societies

There are over 400 clubs and societies at the University of Oxford which cover a wide variety of interests that you may wish to join. Further information available [here](#).

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. We recognise that the broad range of experiences that a diverse staff and student body brings strengthens our research and enhances our teaching, and that in order for Oxford to remain a world-leading institution we must continue to provide a diverse, inclusive, fair and open environment that allows everyone to grow and flourish.” University of Oxford [Equality Policy](#)

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.

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.

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

There are a range of faith societies, belief groups, and religious centres within Oxford University that are open to students. For more information visit:

edu.admin.ox.ac.uk/religion-and-belief-0

Student Activities/Volunteering Opportunities at the Pitt Rivers Museum

What’s On

Throughout the year there are likely to be one-off film screenings, seminars, exhibitions, and other activities at the Pitt Rivers, in SAME, and elsewhere in the University which will be of interest to VMMA students. As far as possible we will try to inform you of these, but students should also regularly check the websites of the museum and the department. Each year VMMA students are encouraged to set up an online group which can become a very vibrant forum to advertise and discuss such events and to discuss the course among your peers.

Students on the VMMA course may be able to do short volunteering activities with staff at the Pitt Rivers Museum, as and when they arise.

Previous activities have included:

- helping to curate exhibitions
- assisting with Indigenous community research visits to the museum
- shooting and editing a short film to be shown in the Pitt Rivers Museum
- working with staff at the Pitt Rivers on public events and educational activities
- organising and hosting anthropologically-themed late night events at the museum
- helping to devise and perform a dance piece in the museum
- creating and conducting surveys to gather feedback from visitors to the Performing Tibetan Identities exhibition

Students are also welcome to join the volunteers programme for the Oxford University Museums, see <https://www.glam.ox.ac.uk/volunteering#/>. This provides valuable experience of giving talks for visitors of all ages and learning about museum education and public interpretation programmes.

In addition to this, the Pitt Rivers participates each year in the Oxford University Internship Programme, offering between two and four paid 6-week internships in July/August. Full

details about this are available from the University's careers service and will be circulated to VMMA students.



Installation of portraits by Tibetan photographer Nyema Droma in the court of the Pitt Rivers Museum, 2018.
Photo copyright: John Cairns.

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

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

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

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/

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

Oxford Against Sexual Violence

Sexual harassment and violence of any form is never acceptable. Our campaign with Oxford SU focuses on the range of support available for our students, including our Support Service. #OxfordAgainstSexualViolence ox.ac.uk/supportservice

Sexual harassment and violence is never acceptable at Oxford. If you have been affected by sexual harassment or violence in any form, our Support Service is here to help as a safe place for you to be heard. #OxfordAgainstSexualViolence ox.ac.uk/supportservice

Oxford's Support Service is a safe place for all students to be heard, regardless of age or gender, who have been affected by sexual harassment or violence at any time. You can contact the service by emailing supportservice@admin.ox.ac.uk or refer yourself or others via ox.ac.uk/supportservice #OxfordAgainstSexualViolence

Our Sexual Harassment and Violence Support Service has a team of highly trained Specialist Advisors and an Independent Sexual Violence Advisor who provide free and confidential support and advice to our students, independent of your college or department. #OxfordAgainstSexualViolence ox.ac.uk/supportservice

Our Sexual Harassment and Violence Support Service can help support you at your own pace. From practical support to keep you safe and feeling safe, help with managing the impact on your studies, and emotional support, we are here to support you, whatever you choose to do. #OxfordAgainstSexualViolence ox.ac.uk/supportservice

Sexual harassment and violence is any unwanted sexual behaviour which takes place without consent, whether you know the person or not. It can happen regardless of your gender, sexual orientation, race, religion or age. It can happen online or in person. Oxford is against sexual violence. It is never acceptable. #OxfordAgainstSexualViolence ox.ac.uk/againstsexualviolence

We are committed to preventing and responding to incidents of sexual harassment and violence at Oxford. We have made disciplinary processes more transparent and the online Consent Matters programme is available to all students as we review consent provision across the collegiate University. #OxfordAgainstSexualViolence ox.ac.uk/consent-matters

We all have a responsibility to act against sexual harassment and violence. If you have experienced sexual harassment or violence in any form, our Support Service is here for you— whoever you are, whatever has happened, and whenever it was. We're here to support you. #OxfordAgainstSexualViolence ox.ac.uk/supportservice

We all have a personal responsibility to understand what sexual violence and harassment are, and what consent is, and to make sure that we always act appropriately. #OxfordAgainstSexualViolence ox.ac.uk/supportservice

If you haven't taken our online Consent Matters course yet, make sure to complete it before term gets too busy. It doesn't take long to complete and covers important topics to help you understand consent, communication and looking out for others. #OxfordAgainstSexualViolence ox.ac.uk/consent-matters

Academic progress

Graduate Supervision Reporting (GSR) is used by graduate students, supervisors, college advisors, and Course Directors/DGSs to review students' academic progress. Students access GSR in [Student Self Service](#).

Students, their supervisors, Course Directors and DGSs can all view each other's reports and comments, can flag a concern about the students' academic progress, and mark their concern as resolved. DGSs can also submit an overall comment on concerns raised. ***This is not the place to raise any complaints.***

Each term, students use GSR to complete a self-assessment report on their academic progress, and raise any concerns or issues regarding their academic progress. PGT students are also asked to identify skills developed and training undertaken or required. Depending on the programme of study PGT students may also be asked to report.

Students are encouraged to use the opportunity to:

- Review and comment on their academic progress during the reporting period

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

Reporting is strongly recommended for students. When your reporting window opens, you will receive an automated email notification with everything that you need to get started in GSR.

University awards framework (UAF)

The [UAF](#) is an overarching description of the qualifications and awards which the University offers. It positions those qualifications at the appropriate level of the FHEQ and takes into account the qualification characteristics which form part of the Quality Code.

Whilst the majority of awards of the University also reflect the titling conventions specified in the FHEQ, a small number of awards still retain their historic title.

Detailed regulations for particular qualifications are contained with the Examination Regulations for that award.

Master of Science (by coursework) (MSc)

FHEQ Level 7, 180 credits

Master of Philosophy (MPhil)

FHEQ Level 7, 180 credits

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](#).

Recording of lectures

The University recognises that there are a number of reasons why students might wish to record lectures or other formal teaching sessions (such as seminars and classes) in order to support their learning. The University also recognises that in most cases copyright in lectures resides with the University or with the academic responsible for the lecture or formal teaching session, and that academics and students may have concerns about privacy and data protection. This policy sets out the circumstances in which such recordings may take place; the respective roles and responsibilities of those involved in such recordings; and the implications of breaches of this policy.

<https://academic.admin.ox.ac.uk/policies/recording-lectures-other-teaching-sessions>

Freedom of speech

Free speech is the lifeblood of a university.

It enables the pursuit of knowledge. It helps us approach truth. It allows students, teachers and researchers to become better acquainted with the variety of beliefs, theories and opinions in the world. Recognising the vital importance of free expression for the life of the mind, a university may make rules concerning the conduct of debate but should never prevent speech that is lawful.

Inevitably, this will mean that members of the University are confronted with views that some find unsettling, extreme or offensive. The University must therefore foster freedom of expression within a framework of robust civility. Not all theories deserve equal respect. A university values expertise and intellectual achievement as well as openness. But, within the bounds set by law, all voices or views which any member of our community considers relevant should be given the chance of a hearing. Wherever possible, they should also be exposed to evidence, questioning and argument. As an integral part of this commitment to freedom of expression, we will take steps to ensure that all such exchanges happen peacefully. With appropriate regulation of the time, place and manner of events, neither speakers nor listeners should have any reasonable grounds to feel intimidated or censored.

It is this understanding of the central importance and specific roles of free speech in a university that underlies the detailed procedures of the University of Oxford.

<https://compliance.admin.ox.ac.uk/prevent/freedom-of-speech>

Complaints and appeals

Complaints and academic appeals within the School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography

The University, the Social Sciences Division (SSD) and the School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography 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 School's committees.

Complaints

If your concern or complaint relates to teaching or other provision made by the School, then you should raise it with the Director of Graduate Studies, Prof David Gellner, as appropriate. If your concern relates to the course as a whole, rather than to teaching or other provision made by one of the School, you should raise it with the Student representative of the Graduate Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) for the course. Complaints about school facilities should be made to the Departmental administrator, Vicky Dean. If you feel unable to approach one of those individuals, you may contact the Head of School, Dr David Pratten. 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, 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 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>