

## Postgraduate Study

MPhil/PhD Sociology

MPhil/PhD Visual Sociology

MA Critical and Creative Analysis

MA/MSc Digital Sociology

MA Gender, Media and Culture

MA Global Networks and Society

MA Photography and Urban Cultures

MA Social Research

MA World Cities and Urban Life

# Sociology



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This booklet outlines the postgraduate research and taught Masters degrees in Sociology at Goldsmiths, University of London. Please read this booklet in conjunction with our Postgraduate Prospectus; further information is available from Admissions at the contact details on page 32.

We can supply information in alternative formats for people with a visual impairment or dyslexia. Please contact the Course Enquiry Team on **+44 (0)20 7078 5300** or e-mail **course-info@gold.ac.uk**.

# Introducing the Department of Sociology

The Department of Sociology is nationally and internationally recognised as one of the UK's leading university departments in the discipline. We are a highly successful research and teaching department and achieved the highest rankings for research in the latest Research Assessment Exercise 2008, coming joint top in the UK.

Study Sociology at Goldsmiths, and you'll join one of the largest and most innovative sociology departments in the country. We have an excellent reputation for teaching and a large, diverse and dynamic student body.

The Department is committed to developing the discipline of sociology by involving all members of the Department in research and scholarship in a national and international context; to furthering knowledge and theory; and to the understanding and improvement of contemporary social conditions, practices and policies. We link teaching at postgraduate level with staff research specialisms, to their mutual benefit. As a result, postgraduate work takes place within a stimulating and challenging research culture.

In addition to having an unrivalled range of specialists, we play a key role in the development of contemporary social and cultural theory and innovative social science research methodologies.

The Department has 28 full-time academic staff, including nine professors, as well as a number of visiting tutors. Staff have been awarded research grants by the ESRC, the AHRC, the Leverhulme Trust, the Wellcome Trust, the Health Education Authority, the Nuffield Trust, INTEL, the Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation, and a variety of government departments and charitable trusts. We carry out collaborative research with academics in other UK universities and in Australia, Canada, Europe, Latin America, Asia and the United States. Each year we welcome leading international researchers as Visiting Fellows in the Department, and in the Centre for Cultural Studies, the Centre for Urban and Community Research, the Centre for the Study of Invention and Social Process and the Centre for the Study of Global Media and Democracy, which we run with the Departments of Politics, and Media and Communications. We publish widely in the form of books, contributions to journals, and press articles.

## Why study Sociology at Goldsmiths?

- Awarded the highest research ratings in the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise carried out by the Higher Education Funding Council for England, indicating the international and world class quality of our research and placing us as one of the top four Sociology Departments in the country.
- Lively, interdisciplinary department at the cutting edge of social and cultural theory.
- Commitment to engage with contemporary issues – reflected in our work on race, racism and religion; gender and sexuality; culture; markets and consumer culture; technology and governance; new media; social aspects of health, illness, and biomedicine; urban life and the inner city; human rights and citizenship; social class; violence and globalisation.
- Close relations between teaching and original research, which draws on the research specialisms of our staff.
- Strong emphasis on training in rigorous sociological research methods.
- Excellent dedicated facilities for research students, including shared office space and a resources room with computers and networked photocopier/printer, e-mail and Internet access, kitchen facilities and common space.
- An international community of students drawn from many countries currently including Austria, Canada, China, Finland, Sweden, Italy, Mexico, Japan, Spain, Portugal, India, Germany, Taiwan, and the United States.
- Over 70 masters, around 80 research and around 400 undergraduates studying for single and joint honours degrees.
- Access to unrivalled University of London research libraries, and to obtaining a reader's ticket to the British Library.
- Strong interdisciplinary tradition. Close links with the Departments of Anthropology, English and Comparative Literature, History, Media and Communications, Visual Cultures, and Politics, and with the Centre for Cultural Studies, the Centre for the Study of Invention and Social Process and the Centre for Urban and Community Research.

- Involvement of all postgraduate students and researchers in research developments in the Department through seminars and workshops.
- Integration of the career development of research students within their programme of study.
- In 2011 we were awarded (with Queen Mary, London University) fifty PhD Studentships over five years as part of a new Doctoral Training Centre.

## Research culture

The Department of Sociology has a well-established and distinguished research record across the breadth of the discipline. We have also played a distinctive role in the development of a range of research methodologies for the social sciences. We host conferences, seminars and workshops on topical issues on a regular basis.

Staff research interests encompass: sociological theory; culture, communication; visual sociology, technology and governance; gender and sexuality; economic life; class, taste and consumer culture; race, racism, religion and nationalism; science and technology; social aspects of the life sciences and bio-medicine; the body and society; new media and the Internet; globalisation, urban life and the inner city; art and literature; education; social aspects of health and illness; psychoanalysis; human rights, law and identity; war crimes; violence, terrorism and military conflict; citizenship and cultural politics. For full details of the staff and their research interests, please see page 30.

## Research centres

We have a close association with four interdisciplinary research centres at Goldsmiths. Two of these Centres are part of the Department of Sociology: the Centre for Urban and Community Research (CUCR) and the Centre for the Study of Invention and Social Process (CSISP).

The Centre for Urban and Community Research (CUCR) fosters a thriving agenda of interdisciplinary work in the field of urban studies and is directed by Professor Caroline Knowles. The dynamic research culture of the Centre has enabled it to develop an international reputation in several areas, notably 'race', asylum, refugees, identity;

residence, housing, associational politics; community participation, participatory democracy, regeneration; and photography and visual sociology.

The Centre for the Study of Invention and Social Process is another interdisciplinary Research Centre (CSISP) of the Department. The Director of CSISP is Dr Marsha Rosengarten. Dr Rosengarten oversees a research agenda entailing three broad strands: the examination of the conceptual and practical role of 'invention' and cognate terms (eg 'innovation', 'creativity', 'process', 'expectation'); the empirical investigation of 'invention' in contemporary social and material dynamics covering an array of substantive areas (eg interdisciplinarity, HIV/AIDS, oil, public engagement with science); methodological and design innovation to enable forms of collaboration and mutual intervention across disciplines (eg design and social science, biomedicine and process philosophy, arts and environmental science). The future of democracy is inseparable from the capacities of media – at all scales from the local to the global. Both the sustainability and the expansion of democracy depend on what media institutions do and what spaces media make possible. The complexity of these processes requires interdisciplinary research across politics, sociology and media. The Centre for the Study of Global Media and Democracy addresses these connections. The Centre brings together researchers from the Departments of Media and Communications, Sociology and Politics. It hosts public lectures and debates, research symposia, and seminar series. The interdisciplinary Centre for Cultural Studies (CCS), launched in 1997, is directed by Professor Scott Lash, and organises many research activities relevant to students in Sociology.

## Research unit

The Department is also home to other thriving research initiatives. The **Unit for Global Justice** studies both the legal and ethical implications of contemporary social change and the role that law itself plays in a rapidly changing world. The Unit aims to bring together researchers and practitioners concerned with changing social and technical forms and their implications for how we understand law and justice.

The **Xenos** research initiative aims to develop in a multidisciplinary way new approaches to thinking about and researching the geosocial and geopolitical conflicts we see today. This includes transnational and sub-national conflicts and wars based on ethnic and civic nationalism, religious authoritarianism and political violence.

**INCITE** (Incubator for Critical Inquiry into Technology and Ethnography) aims to provide a creative interdisciplinary space for research projects that explore the socio-cultural dimensions of technology use and design. Members of INCITE work on subjects such as the links between new media and landscape, technology as a means of sensing place and identifying community, performativity and design, gender, sexuality and mobility, cultures of access and non-access, urban knowledge-making, Internet and digital subjectivities and material culture. Researchers and students draw on a range of disciplinary traditions, not just sociology, but cultural anthropology, art history and design.

Goldsmiths Sociology is committed to developing inventive ways of doing sociology. Our **Methods Lab** aims at constructing a laboratory for the practice of sociological imagination. The aim is to make social research responsive to social life and to bring it alive. Ideas are often elusive and they don't announce their arrival in advance. This initiative hopes to build a laboratory to stimulate creative debate about the ways in which the practice of sociology is changing, what social research should look like today, and how sociology can best respond to the demands of users of social research. The Lab is intended to provide a space for us to question and develop our own methods of sociological reasoning, to be open to the possibilities of practicing a sociological imagination in a world in which the fundamental co-ordinates of social life are held to be undergoing change.

#### Seminars

The Department is home to a number of visiting international scholars each year who present papers and offer seminars in their specialist areas. There is also a range of seminar series within the College addressing interdisciplinary issues. Each of our centres and research initiatives organise seminars, conferences and workshops every year, with participation of leading thinkers and researchers from the UK and abroad.

#### Careers and employability

Many of our MA students have gone on to do further postgraduate study (MPhil/PhD) or to work as researchers in the academic or private sector. Examples of careers obtained by recent graduates include: Director of a Language Centre, Director of a Medical Centre, independent TV producer, television researcher, magazine sub-editor, journalist, health researcher, lobbyist. Graduates have gone on to do practical work in urban contexts – for example, housing management, community development, youth work, regeneration and think tanks, while others have simply re-entered the general graduate labour market but at a higher level. Yet others still have established film and media businesses or expanded their arts work.

A PhD in Sociology can lead to a whole range of international career possibilities including working in NGO's, as a social researcher in applied areas like health, development, or urban regeneration, applying your research to your own career development in the public, commercial or third sector, or starting your own business. Previous students have entered government and advisory bodies and research foundations. PhD students have also gone on to work in academic research environments. As a trained sociologist there is also the possibility of taking up a career as a university lecturer and researcher. There are also students who have completed their PhDs and moved into practice-orientated work in a range of organisations from research foundations to the Arts Council and local government.

#### Open Days

College-wide Open days for all programmes across the university are usually held three times a year in Spring, Summer and Autumn. For further information on these, please visit the website at [www.gold.ac.uk/opendays](http://www.gold.ac.uk/opendays).



# General information

We offer the following postgraduate programmes:

- MPhil/PhD in Sociology
- MPhil/PhD in Visual Sociology
- MA in Critical and Creative Analysis
- MA/MSc in Digital Sociology
- MA in Gender, Media and Culture
- MA in Global Networks and Society
- MA in Photography and Urban Cultures
- MA in Social Research
- MA in World Cities and Urban Life

Postgraduate Diploma (PgDip) and Postgraduate Certificate (PgCert) routes are also available for our Masters programmes.

## Application and admission

Applications are submitted online.

To access the application system please visit [www.gold.ac.uk/apply/](http://www.gold.ac.uk/apply/). We strongly recommend you apply as early as possible.

Admission for the MPhil/PhD programmes and the MA in Photography and Urban Cultures is normally by interview. Interviews with international students can also be conducted by telephone, Skype or videoconference.

Please visit our webpages at [www.gold.ac.uk/sociology](http://www.gold.ac.uk/sociology) for up-to-date information on deadlines and procedures.

## Entrance requirements

You should normally have, or expect to gain, an undergraduate degree of at least upper second class standard in Sociology or another appropriate subject (for example an arts or humanities degree such as Politics, Geography, History, Cultural Studies), or be qualified by previous experience and be able to demonstrate the ability to work at Master's level. If you are not a graduate, or your degree is in an unrelated field, you may be subject to a qualifying examination (which any candidate may be required to take).

For the MPhil/PhD in Sociology, you should normally have an MA in Sociology or other appropriate subject. An MA in methods of social research (such as the MA in Social Research) would be a distinct advantage. For the MPhil/PhD Visual Sociology programme, you should also normally have an MA in Photography and Urban Cultures or another MA that has included appropriate video/sound or photographic practice, or practical experience in video or photography deemed sufficient to stand in lieu of formal qualifications. Please see the Postgraduate Prospectus or visit [www.gold.ac.uk/sociology](http://www.gold.ac.uk/sociology) for further details.

## English language requirement

If English is not your first language, you must obtain evidence of your English Language competence. Tests considered appropriate include:

- International English Language Testing System [IELTS] – pass with at least 6.5 overall and a minimum of 6.0 in the written element
- TOEFL score of at least 580 including 4.5 in the Test of Written English [TWE], or 237 in the Computerised test [CT] including 4.5 in the essay component, or 92 in the Internet-based test [IBT] with a minimum of 23 in the written element
- International GCSE (IGCSE) English as a second language at Grade C
- Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency of English [CPE] Level 5 at Grade C or above
- Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English [CAE] Level 4 at Grade B or above
- Pearson Test of English (Academic) with a score of 68 overall, including 68 in the written element and 59 in all other elements.

For further information, please visit [www.gold.ac.uk/pg/apply/english-language/](http://www.gold.ac.uk/pg/apply/english-language/). International candidates may be accepted without an interview.

## Fees and funding

For up-to-date information on fees and funding, please visit [www.gold.ac.uk/costs](http://www.gold.ac.uk/costs)

**Please note:** fees are quoted on a yearly basis.

## Students with higher qualifications

If you are applying to university with existing higher education qualifications awarded from a UK institution, please note that recent government changes to the way Higher Education courses are funded may affect you. Students applying for courses that are either equivalent to or at a lower level than their existing qualifications will be asked to pay the full cost of their course fees (including the element usually made up by government funding) and will not be eligible for any public funding. Therefore you should be aware that the tuition fees quoted in our prospectus and on our website only apply to students who do not have an existing higher education qualification from a UK institution and are not studying at a lower level than their existing qualifications. For more information, please visit the Higher Education Funding Council (HEFCE) website at [www.hefce.ac.uk/faq/elq.htm](http://www.hefce.ac.uk/faq/elq.htm).

## Funding

We are delighted to announce that the joint bid from Queen Mary, University of London and Goldsmiths for ESRC recognition as a Doctoral Training Centre has been successful. This means that with effect from 2011, we will jointly deliver training for social science students as well as being able to offer 10 (ten) studentships to social science students from both colleges. Please check out the link for more information on applying for an ESRC Studentship at [www.gold.ac.uk/sociology/pg-students/esrc-studentships/](http://www.gold.ac.uk/sociology/pg-students/esrc-studentships/).

The **MPhil/PhD Visual Sociology** and our **other MAs** (Photography and Urban Cultures; Critical and Creative Analysis; World Cities and Urban Life; Gender, Media and Culture) are recognised by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) under its graduate research training funding schemes. From October 2009, the AHRC will fund the majority of its postgraduate studentships through a Block Grant Partnership (BGP). Goldsmiths has been successful in its application for a BGP, having provided evidence of 'excellent training and supervision' for our students. Goldsmiths is able to offer AHRC postgraduate studentships via the Block Grant Partnership for five years from October 2009. Nomination for these studentships is administered at College level, rather than through the Department. Please visit [www.gold.ac.uk/ahrc](http://www.gold.ac.uk/ahrc) for details.

Goldsmiths also offers a **Goldsmiths Postgraduate Scholarship Scheme** and details are available at [www.gold.ac.uk/pg/costs/grants/](http://www.gold.ac.uk/pg/costs/grants/).

In addition to the above funding, the Department of Sociology offers one Kirsty MacColl Scholarship which covers fees only for EU/Home applicants only. Only successful MA in Photography and Urban Cultures and MA in World Cities and Urban Life are eligible to apply for this.

For more information, please visit [www.gold.ac.uk/costs](http://www.gold.ac.uk/costs), or request a copy of our Funding your Postgraduate Study booklet; copies are available at [www.gold.ac.uk/costs/pg](http://www.gold.ac.uk/costs/pg) or from the contacts listed on page 32.

# MPhil/PhD in Sociology

## MPhil/PhD in Visual Sociology

Goldsmiths' research in sociology covers a range of areas that are broadly grouped into six research clusters: Race, religion, ethnicity and nationalism; World cities, economies and social exclusion; Culture; Gender and social life; Politics, rights and globalisation; Life sciences, medicine, technology and health. Staff research interests include: art and literature, violence, education, the sociology of governance and regulation, theories of industrial society, health, illness and psychiatry, interpersonal relations, knowledge, politics, 'race' and racism, religion, values in society, childhood and youth culture, advertising and branding, the body and society, social aspects of the life sciences and biomedicine, science and technology, the expansion of capitalism on a world scale, geo-sociology, class and culture, urban studies, gender and the sexual division of labour, and culture and communications. Supervision in all these and other areas is available. Please see details of staff interests on page 30.

### MPhil/PhD in Visual Sociology

This programme offers you the opportunity to combine written sociological argument with film, sound, or photographic representation. It will allow new researchers to re-think both the conduct of social research and the forms that social research writing takes in the 21st century. The PhD will allow you to re-think the gathering, analysis and presentation of research data and consider the future of sociological representation.

### Application and admission

Applications are submitted online. To access the application system, please visit [www.gold.ac.uk/apply/](http://www.gold.ac.uk/apply/).

We recommend that you apply as early in the academic year as possible; there are also fixed deadlines for specific funding sources. Admission normally requires face-to-face (or, in exceptional circumstances, telephone) interview.

### Fees and funding

Please visit [www.gold.ac.uk/costs](http://www.gold.ac.uk/costs) or see the Postgraduate Prospectus for up-to-date information on fees and funding currently available at Goldsmiths.

### ESRC

The MPhil/PhD Sociology programme is recognised by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) for excellence in research training. The Economic and Social Research Council provides the major source of funding for research students from the United Kingdom or elsewhere in the European Union. The Council gives awards to both full and part-time students, although competition for these awards is fierce. For full details of the different ESRC funding schemes, including eligibility criteria, please visit [www.esrc.ac.uk](http://www.esrc.ac.uk). For details of Departmental deadlines and procedures in relation to ESRC funding, please visit [www.gold.ac.uk/sociology/pg-students/esrc-studentships/](http://www.gold.ac.uk/sociology/pg-students/esrc-studentships/).

### AHRC

Our MPhil/PhD in Visual Sociology is recognised by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) for excellence in research training. Eligible applicants to this programme can apply for one of the AHRC studentships available through the College-administered Block Grant Partnership (BGP).

For full details of the AHRC funding scheme, including eligibility criteria, and deadlines and procedures in relation to the AHRC Block Grant Partnership scheme, please visit [www.gold.ac.uk/ahrc](http://www.gold.ac.uk/ahrc).

**Please note:** in order to be eligible to be nominated for an AHRC MPhil/PhD studentship by Goldsmiths, you must already have secured an offer of admission (conditional or unconditional) to the MPhil/PhD in Visual Sociology through the Department.

If you have other sources of funding or you wish to fund yourself, you may apply at any time. However, unless there are strong reasons to the contrary, we prefer you to begin your programme of studies in late September, so that you can follow the induction course and start your research training at the beginning of the programme.

### Registration and study

Initially, you register for a Master of Philosophy (MPhil) programme to train you in the research methods you will need to complete a PhD. You can apply to upgrade to PhD registration when you have satisfactorily completed an agreed part of the research and training programme; this usually

happens before 18 months if you are studying full-time, or before 36 months if part-time. Detailed criteria for upgrading from MPhil to PhD status apply for the two programmes. You should aim to complete and submit your PhD thesis within a total period of three years (full-time), or within six years (part-time). If you decide not to upgrade to PhD registration, you can submit your thesis for an MPhil after two years if you are studying full-time, or after three years if part-time. With the agreement of your supervisor, you can change your registration from full to part-time or vice versa.

North American applicants especially should note that the British system does not include preparatory taught classes or examinations as part of the MPhil/PhD programme, except for courses in research methods (see below).

### Research training programme

We are committed to the development of skilled sociological researchers who are able to understand and carry out rigorous research using a variety of methodologies and methods that reflect the strengths of qualitative and quantitative sociology. In addition to individual supervisions, all research students follow a compulsory course of research training in their first year of registration (for full-time students), or the first two years (for part-time students).

There are four elements to the training programme:

- A College-wide programme of research training is provided, which involves an induction course, introduction to information technologies and the use of library and bibliographic resources, basic training in quantitative research methods, and sessions on research planning, presentation skills and ethics.
- The core of the MPhil/PhD Sociology research training in the Department is based around our MA in Social Research, which is recognised by the ESRC for research training in Sociology. Unless they already have a relevant ESRC-recognised MA, non-ESRC students must normally follow the taught components of the MA Social Research programme: Theory, Concepts and Methods of Social Research I & II, and Modelling Social Data I and II (details can be found on the MA course website).

- Research students attend and contribute to a fortnightly Research Workshop, currently held on Tuesday afternoon, where you give presentations and discuss your work. You will give an assessed presentation to first year research students and staff from different departments during the Spring Review Week at the end of the year, which is organised by the College's Graduate School.
- Most years, staff and students host a Sociology Postgraduate Conference.

On the Visual Sociology MPhil/PhD programme, you will take visual sociology workshops as well as relevant research training courses, including relevant components of the MA Photography and Urban Cultures. Specific criteria for upgrading from MPhil Visual Sociology to PhD status also apply.

### Options

You may also, after consultation with your supervisor, take or audit Options from any of the taught MA programmes offered in the Department. These Options cover a wide range of research specialisms, taught by members of the Department who are currently active researchers in these areas.

### Assessment

Examination is by thesis and viva voce. For the MPhil/PhD in Visual Sociology there is also a visual/aural component (a video or sound feature, or a photographic project).

### Facilities

We can offer most research students dedicated, shared office space, concentrated on the eighth floor of Warmington Tower (the Department occupies floors 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12); the eighth floor also houses the Postgraduate Research Officer and the Convenor of the research postgraduate programme.

### Find out more

If you have specific queries regarding application procedures and administrative matters, please contact Bridget Ward, our Postgraduate Research Officer, e-mail [b.ward@gold.ac.uk](mailto:b.ward@gold.ac.uk). For specific queries relating to the MPhil/PhD in Sociology, please contact Dr David Oswell, e-mail [d.oswell@gold.ac.uk](mailto:d.oswell@gold.ac.uk). For specific queries relating to the MPhil/PhD in Visual Sociology, please contact Dr Nina Wakeford, e-mail [n.wakeford@gold.ac.uk](mailto:n.wakeford@gold.ac.uk).

# MA in Critical and Creative Analysis

1 year full-time or 2 years part-time

Cultural processes are creative and dynamic, meaning that our analysis of them must be too. This MA programme emphasises the critical analysis of cultural processes – social, affective, political, economic and creative – from both an advanced theoretical perspective and a rigorous, empirical one.

The MA attracts students with backgrounds in social science, humanities and philosophy as well as more creative pursuits (fine art, design studies) and from across the world. It is particularly relevant if you are keen to develop your theoretical interests within the unique environment that this interdisciplinary programme provides, as well as those who wish to be guided in the analysis of an aspect of contemporary cultural processes in critical empirical work. A team of respected writers and researchers within the Department of Sociology teach the Core Courses of the programme.

You are encouraged to attend the many relevant talks, seminars taking place at Goldsmiths throughout the year. The MA programme gives you an opportunity to develop your interests, to explore new areas of thought and study, and to get valuable guided practice in producing written work.

For further details, please visit [www.gold.ac.uk/pg/ma-critical-creative-analysis](http://www.gold.ac.uk/pg/ma-critical-creative-analysis).

## What do you study?

The Core Course is taught within the Department of Sociology, and provides an introduction to critical contemporary sociological conceptualisations of culture, presenting opportunities for the development and exploration of interdisciplinary perspectives on the analysis of contemporary cultural processes. The Core Course introduces you to ways of thinking and analysing social and cultural processes by focusing on key authors and examples each week.

In addition to the Core Course, you also study option courses to the value of 90 CATS. As the degree is part of the college scheme, you have the opportunity to pursue your interests from across all participating departments. You also write a Dissertation for which you meet for individual supervision with a supervisor and participate in Dissertation workshops.

## Core Course

### What is Culture? Key Theoretical Interventions

A critical introduction to contemporary theoretical analyses. We revise the content each year, but themes address socio-cultural processes in relation to identity and difference, capitalism, globalisation, politics and creativity in art, science and culture. Examples of thinkers discussed in the past include Raymond Williams, Antonio Gramsci, Gilles Deleuze, Judith Butler, Michael Hart, Toni Negri, Maurizio Lazzarato and Michel Foucault.

## Dissertation

Submission of the 12-15,000-word Dissertation (in early-September) marks completion of the programme and is a double-weighted assessment. If studying full-time, you begin to discuss the Dissertation in the first term when a supervisor is assigned to you and the ethics form is completed and considered by the departmental Ethics Committee. In the second term there will be preparation workshops to begin to address issues of method. In the third term full-time students attend a weekly Dissertation preparation workshop, together with second-year part-time students. These workshops are overseen by a member of staff who may lead discussion, but are based on student peer review of individual presentations of work in progress. This process is consolidated through individual supervision so that you should have both the academic and methodological resources to begin drafting your Dissertation.

## Options

You choose Options to the value of 90 CATS from a wide range available, and at least 30 CATS of those must be from the Department of Sociology list. These may vary from year to year; not all of them are offered each year but the number of Sociology Options available is usually around 14 – spread over two teaching terms. The other Departments (Anthropology, Centre for Cultural Studies, English and Comparative Literature, Media and Communications, and Politics) between them offer more than 30 further Options.

Please see page 28 for a list of the Sociology Options.

## Assessment

30 CAT Sociology Option courses are assessed by a 5-6,000-word essay, and 15 CAT Sociology Option courses are assessed by a 2-3,000-word essay.

## Skills

You develop advanced analytical skills, the ability to evaluate complex theoretical positions and to deploy those within appropriate formats and frameworks.

## Attendance

The programme is taught in two terms: the Autumn term (from late September to mid-December) and the Spring term (mid-January to mid-April). During the Summer term (early May to mid-June), you complete work for assessment, attend workshops and consult your supervisor on your Dissertation. During the summer break you write your Dissertation.

Sociology teaching is usually on Thursdays and Fridays. Other Departments' Options can run on any day of the week. If you're studying full-time, you'll normally need to attend on both of these days. As a part-time student you need to attend on 1 or 1.5 days throughout the programme, depending upon the Options you've chosen; in Year 1, you should expect to attend on Fridays when the compulsory Core Course is taught.

## Postgraduate Diploma and Postgraduate Certificate Routes

Postgraduate Diploma (PgDip) and Postgraduate Certificate (PgCert) awards are also available in this programme. For the award of Postgraduate Diploma, you would need to successfully complete the core course and option courses to the value of 120 CATS; for the Postgraduate Certificate you would need to successfully complete the core course and option courses to the value of 60 CATS.

## Find out more

If you have specific programme queries, once you've read this booklet and the Postgraduate Prospectus, please contact Dr Monica Sassatelli, e-mail [m.sassatelli@gold.ac.uk](mailto:m.sassatelli@gold.ac.uk).





Spiral Drawing Sunrise

## MA/MSc in Digital Sociology

1 year full-time or 2 years part-time

The MA/MSc in Digital Sociology is a collaborative programme across the Sociology and Computing Departments at Goldsmiths. It has been specifically developed to create graduates who have specialist practical expertise in digital technologies combined with technical, analytical, methodological and presentational skills in digital social research and expertise in one or more fields of sociology.

The Masters teaches the practice-based technological skills and the sociological skills required to become a Digital Sociologist who is able to create, analyse and interact with contemporary digital social theory and methods. You will study the skills, art, and ethics of digital sociology and learn to combine critical thinking and training in social research methods with technical skills. Graduates will have the unique capability to integrate social and critical theory skills with digital social research methods. Whether planning to pursue an academic career or to work in public, private and third-sector organisations, the programme will teach students to design social research projects, work with and create problem solving or information retrieval applications, and synthesise, analyse and evaluate data in relation to sociological problems. The programme is an opportunity to cross perceived digital and analogue divides in the study and elaboration of social life.

You will become proficient in the intersections of:

- Critical sociological thinking and methods (sociological theory and imagination, craft and critique)
- Computing skills (coding, hardware/software, data, digital methods).

The programme will offer the highest calibre of sociology and computing science training. Every student on our MA/MSc applies their skills and prepares for future job opportunities on guaranteed projects and internship placements with one of our Innovation partners. Applicants should be determined to explore critical and entrepreneurial approaches and enthusiastic about in-depth and hands-on experimentation with innovations in sociology.

### What do you study?

The MA/MSc Digital Sociology degree consists of courses taught by Sociology and Computing in a truly interdisciplinary and collaborative style. Current themes in social theory and social research discussed in the core sociology modules will be complemented in the computing modules, giving the students lots of opportunity to obtain the creative computing and technical skills. The programme offers 180 credits (CATS points) and unprecedented contact time with tutors, experts from academia, industry, the public sector and non-governmental organisations. Students without a technical background will be encouraged to take our pre-session Technology Bootcamp in September to gain a basic literacy in digital fundamentals.

The Core Course in Sociology, The Digital Sociological Imagination, introduces students to the conceptual and methodological issues opened up by the application of social research methods in digital networked media. Students will choose one option course in the first term on topics such as visualising data and software cultures. The Digital Social Research Methods course will be taught jointly, integrating traditional and emergent digital methods that draw on best practices from both disciplines. Core computing modules include Digital Case Studies featuring industry, civil society and academic guests and extensive training and experimentation time in the Digital Sandbox (lab) developing a capability and literacy in computer science. In the final practical project students will undertake a significant written and digital research project in consultation with a supervisor. These projects will often connect to work completed on guaranteed internship placements with industry partners.

**Digital Sandbox** (Terms 1 and 2; 30 Cats Points; offered by Computing) is the core practical component of the computing science components of the course. Students undertake intensive six-hour lab sessions (2 x 3hrs) on each of 10 distinct contemporary means of coding and software configuration relevant to social research. Sample topics include concepts like data visualisation methods, multimedia skill development, HTML5, CSS and design, platforms like Ruby and Python, creative scripting, APIs, search engine and social media optimisation, veracity and validation, mobile application development, social identities and networks, authority and trust, taxonomy and community curation.

**The Digital Sociological Imagination** (Term 1; 30 Cats Points; offered by Sociology) introduces students to the disciplinary dilemmas and the methodological predicaments of digital sociology, as well as to the opportunities it offers for methodological innovation. It will approach these issues through the prism of craft-based approaches to sociological research, with a special focus on the challenges of real-time research, in terms of the relations between theory and methods, research design and intervention. The course is organised around specific empirical tasks and challenges of social research, offering lectures and practice-based sessions that examine the problems and opportunities that digital networked contexts open up in relation to these tasks: collecting data, formulating research questions, new times and spaces of social research, and new ways of telling and imagining society. This course thus combines advanced training in sociological thinking, with a practice-based approach to methods teaching, which takes an explorative approach to renewing the empirical commitments of sociological research in a digital context. We will also examine how digital culture offers new opportunities for sociologists to engage with publics – both on-line and off-line – through innovating new forms and modes of presenting (installation, on-line books/digital research objects) and conducting sociology in public (blog, interactivity, digital constituencies).

**Digital Case Studies** (Term 1; 15 CATS points; offered by Computing) lectures set the stage for each week of teaching in the first term and encourage student exposure to and interaction with the theory, culture, economics, technology, and economics of emerging digital media technologies. The case study format encourages active learning and allows the application of theoretical concepts to be demonstrated, thus bridging the gap between theory and practice. Each week features a different topic so students gain in-depth knowledge of 10 Digital Sociology topics through weekly case study demonstration and critical analysis. Sample topics range from data visualisation, community curation, augmented reality, entrepreneurial business models, geo-located mobility, social media, design, and multimedia provide the foundation for practice-based research in the programme.

**Digital Social Research Methods** (Term 2; 30 Cats Points; offered jointly by Sociology and Computing) provides an advanced introduction to social research methods that have special salience in the digital context, and examines their transposition into the online environment: virtual ethnography, controversy analysis, network analysis, textual analysis, sentiment and conversation analysis, and investigative sociology. The course examines these methods and their digitisation on a case-to-case basis: it provides an overview of the central principles of these sociological methods, and then offers a hands-on introduction to the correlated online research tools and platforms. Here, the course provides experience of a range of current searching and database technologies, and techniques and commands for the analysis of online social content. Finally, the course explores the sociological implications of the changing status of social research methods in the digital environment, as methods are materialised in search engines, data visualisation tools, and so on.

### Options

(Term 2; 15 Cats Points; Offered by Sociology)  
You choose one course from: Hack@Remix; The Digital Image; Digital Architecture and Regulation, all specially designed Sociology courses for this Masters programme. Course descriptions are outlined below:

#### Hack@Remix:

##### Perspectives on Free Software Cultures

Digital information and communication technologies have articulated and continue to articulate profound social, economic, and political change across the globe. Social and cultural theory has engaged these developments. There is on-going debate among social scientists as to the character and trajectory of network society, but most writers agree that in network society the information content is an ever increasing proportion of the commodity's exchange value, and that information-rich commodities are a key element of contemporary knowledge society. Often that information content consists in software, which is one of a number of key technological drivers of post-industrial society. This course considers the socio-cultural and political transformations being brought about by the spread of Free Software with its distinct conceptions of value, property and social relations. The course will draw on material from the worlds of hacking, hacktivism, and Free Culture.

#### The Digital Image

This course explores the digital image in the context of longstanding cultural and sociological theories, discussions and debates about the image. In particular the course explores questions about the (dis)enchantment of the image in an age of ubiquity, about the relation between image and text, about the vitality or liveness of images in digital culture, about the problems and possibilities of imagining large number, and finally about the problems that digital images raise regarding ethics.

#### Digital Architecture and Regulation

The course will pursue the idea that particular digital architectures afford particular forms of social order. It will do so in the context of quite practical discussions and debates of digital media policy and regulation. We will initially consider some of the ordinary myths of cyberspace regarding the decline of national control and impossibility of regulation. We will, then, consider a series of questions and

issues concerning technology, law and society as principle forms of figuration of digital order. And finally we pursue these questions and issues with regard to the complex spaces and materialities of digital regularities and regulation. The course will be focused on particular cases and examples.

#### Innovation Internship

(Term 2; N/A CATS points; offered by CAST)  
Students will spend 2-4 weeks working in a content-based institution, building on the skills they developed in the first and second term. These will be placements with public sector, industry, NGO and community partners. Many of these projects will provide the foundation for the programme Final Project.

**Final Project** (Term 3; 60 CATS points; offered jointly by Computing and Sociology) In the Summer Term students complete a Major Practical Project project consisting of a large-scale multimedia website and/or mobile application addressing a specific sociological problem. Students will also produce a 3-5,000-word critical analysis essay reflecting on the production process and effectiveness of their project.

**Assessment by:** you are required to undertake and pass every element of the programme. Each course is individually assessed using a variety of provisions including digital projects, written work, and exam.

#### Find out more

If you have specific programme queries, once you've read this booklet and the Postgraduate Prospectus, please contact Noortje Marres, Programme Convenor, at n.marres@gold.ac.uk.

For more detailed information about this programme and the Centre for Creative and Social Technology (CAST), please refer to the CAST student recruitment booklet, available from the contact details on page 32.

# MA in Gender, Media and Culture

1 year full-time or 2 years part-time

The MA in Gender, Media and Culture began in September 2007 as the result of collaboration between the Departments of Sociology and Media and Communications. The programme provides an opportunity to engage with issues across a wide field of gender-related topics in depth, including: feminist theory; post-colonial feminism; gender, sexuality and the body; women and human rights discourse; queer theory; post-feminism and popular culture.

The programme offers advanced training for graduates wishing to embark on professional careers in social research, think tanks, arts and the cultural sector, government and public administration, development, human rights work, work with NGOs, and in media and communications globally. It is also ideal for students considering PhD study.

You will be able to attend the regular guest lectures hosted by Goldsmiths across the academic year, including well-known figures from the arts, public and political worlds as well as from academia. We have been fortunate in the last few years to host lectures by Professor Donna Haraway, Santa Cruz (2006); Professor Wendy Brown, Berkeley (2004); Professor Gayatri Spivak, Columbia (2002) and Professor Rosi Braidotti, Utrecht (2006).

For further details, please visit [www.gold.ac.uk/pg/ma-gender-media-culture/](http://www.gold.ac.uk/pg/ma-gender-media-culture/).

## What do you study?

This programme comprises of two core courses over the Autumn and Spring term as well as a range of options from various Departments including History, English and Comparative Literature, Centre for Cultural Studies, and Anthropology. There is also a research dissertation component with each student being appointed a supervisor to advise on this element of the degree.

## Core Courses

There are two core courses: Introduction to Feminist and Cultural Theory; and Gender, Affect and the Body. Both are designed to allow you to become familiar with a wide range of debates which, since the mid 1970s, have become integral to the fields of gender studies, feminist theory, and also cultural studies. These include, questions about sexual difference and the performativity of gender; gender, science, and reproductive technology; debates on affect and emotion; on gender and migration and the new international division of labour; and on feminism and autobiography. These courses will also incorporate new developments in feminist scholarship allowing you to engage with the way in which feminist theory has responded to social, cultural and political transformations.

## Options

You choose Option courses to the value of 60 CATS from a wide range available in the two departments. These may vary from year to year; not all of them are offered each year but there is an indicative list for Sociology on page 28. You may also be able to choose some options from other Departments (usually Anthropology, Centre for Cultural Studies, English and Comparative Literature, Politics). A full list of potential options can be found at [www.gold.ac.uk/pg/ma-gender-media-culture/](http://www.gold.ac.uk/pg/ma-gender-media-culture/).

## Assessment

30 CAT Sociology Option courses are assessed by a 5-6,000-word essay and 15 CAT Sociology Option courses are assessed by a 2-3,000-word essay.

## Dissertation

The Dissertation element of the programme requires a 2,000-word Dissertation report (unassessed) followed by a 12,000-15,000 word Dissertation which is submitted in September. You agree your exact topic with your supervisor.

## Skills

Graduates gain conceptual and methodological knowledge of the key concepts and debates in the study of gender and culture; the skills of critical analysis; the ability to distinguish and appraise a range of socio-cultural research methodologies; the skills to design and develop a research project; and abilities to recognise and account for ethical issues relating to research and representation.

## Careers

Previous graduates have gone on to careers in social research, think tanks, the arts and cultural sectors, government and public administration, development, human rights, NGOs, and in media and communications globally. They have also progressed to PhD study.

## Attendance

Full-time students are expected to attend on Fridays and one or two other days per week in term time, depending on your choice of options. Part-time students are expected to attend on Fridays in term-time and possibly one other day. A number of options will be scheduled on Fridays, so it may be possible for those studying part-time to limit their attendance to Fridays only, but this will depend on option choices and on timetabling restrictions.

## Postgraduate Diploma and

## Postgraduate Certificate Routes

Postgraduate Diploma (PgDip) and Postgraduate Certificate (PgCert) awards are also available in this programme. For the award of Postgraduate Diploma, you would need to successfully complete the two core courses and option courses to the value of 120 CATS; for the Postgraduate Certificate you would need to successfully complete one core course and option courses to the value of 60 CATS.

## Funding

The MA is recognised by the Arts and Humanities Research Council for postgraduate funding under its Block Grant Partnerships Scheme. Please visit [www.gold.ac.uk/ahrc/](http://www.gold.ac.uk/ahrc/) for details.

## Find out more

If you have specific programme queries, once you've read this booklet and the Postgraduate Prospectus, please contact Dr Yasmin Gunaratnam.

# MA in Global Networks and Society

1 year full-time or 2 years part-time

Building on our reputation as the joint top RAE-rated research department in the country, the Department of Sociology is proud to offer this cutting-edge MA programme to cast a distinctive, critical eye over one of the principal threads of contemporary society.

Globalisation has created a world increasingly linked by networks and communication channels that cross cultural, linguistic and national boundaries. Although embedded in much of contemporary society, such networks and the technology that enables them pose a range of challenges for the economic, political, social and private spheres. Unique in the UK, this programme provides a state of the art suite of modules that engage you in examining these networks and technologies, and takes a critical sociological perspective of their implications for business, markets, cultures, politics and society.

The key aims of the programme are:

- To enable you to critically assess the role and impact of global networks and technologies on the social, cultural, political and economic spheres of 21st century society;
- To inspire cutting-edge, student-led research into both the challenges and potential of networks, networking and global communications for societal progress;
- To train a new generation of young professionals with the skills and knowledge to integrate a sociological understanding of networks and technologies into a range of policy and business sectors;
- To infuse students with the analytical, critical thinking and research skills of the RAE top-rated Sociology Department.

## What you study

Combining theoretical and methodological elements, as well as research and practical skills, the programme components cover four key areas: business/markets, creativity, culture and politics and the social sphere. Key contemporary debates will be explored and discussed, including the impact of file-sharing, clouding and social networking on the cultural industries, the central role that technology is playing in the creative process, and the cultural and political impact of new network technologies. The way in which global networks are altering our understanding and perception of multiculturalism, peoples' movements, democracy, peace and security will also be explored, touching on the technological and network interface with global terror networks, political processes, Diaspora and communities around the globe. In particular, the democratising effect of new technologies and how these can be used for political purposes will be considered, including President Obama's use of Facebook and Twitter as campaigning and communications media during the US election.

You take two core modules and two optional courses during the programme, and complete a dissertation.

## Core Courses

The first core module is **Theorising Globalisation and Network Morphologies**, which examines the key sociological theories and theorists on this subject. It focuses on the discourses that connect globalisation, understandings of networking and social and cultural capital, and examines how these are impacted by new notions of networking and by the emergence of digital culture. The second half of the course shifts its focus to the impact of networks and network technologies on political and social activity and organisation. This will include an exploration of a global terror network and the role of technology and communications in both its development and perception by society, as well as delving further into the political sphere to look at how technology and networks are being increasingly used for political purposes in a mediated age.

The second core module is **Cultural Industries, Markets and New Technology** which looks at key debates around creativity and new technology, drawing in particular on cutting-edge research into how the cultural industries are adapting, responding to and utilising the challenge of new technology. This course will get to the heart of debates over rights management, intellectual property and copyright. It will explore the potential for a redefinition of rights in the new technology paradigm, and consider the impact of such ideas on access to, and the use of, information, artwork, music and images.

## Options

In addition, you take optional modules to the value of 60 CATS from the full range of courses available both in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Centre for Cultural Studies, English and Comparative Literature, Media & Communications and Politics.

## Assessment

30 CAT Sociology Option courses are assessed by a 5-6,000-word essay, and 15 CAT Sociology Option courses are assessed by a 2-3,000-word essay.

## Dissertation

The final element of the MA is a dissertation – the chance to research and write about an aspect of the course that interests you the most. Considerable support for the dissertation will be provided through a series of workshops to help you plan and develop your dissertation, especially in regard to issues of methodology and method. Each student will also be assigned a supervisor who will work with you to develop your proposal and undertake independent research.

## Assessment

The Dissertation element of the programme requires a 12,000-15,000 word essay.

## Skills

This MA will sharpen your analytical and critical thinking skills, and train you to engage with key areas of current social and public policy. In particular, you will develop a detailed understanding of the new knowledge economy and contemporary perspectives on community, the technological divide, political, cultural and community participation, the power of networks

in contemporary capitalism and the role of technologies in informing, educating, entertaining and influencing wider publics. Highly contemporary and interdisciplinary, this MA will give you an in-depth knowledge of major themes in modern society that relate to a wide range of employment sectors.

## Attendance

Full-time students are expected to attend on Fridays and one or two other days per week in term time, depending on your choice of options. Part-time students are expected to attend on Fridays in term-time and possibly one other day.

A number of options will be scheduled on Fridays, so it may be possible for those studying part-time to limit their attendance to Fridays only, but this will depend on option choices and on timetabling restrictions.

## Postgraduate Diploma and Postgraduate Certificate Routes

Postgraduate Diploma (PgDip) and Postgraduate Certificate (PgCert) awards are also available in this programme. For the award of Postgraduate Diploma, you would need to successfully complete the two core courses and option courses to the value of 120 CATS; for the Postgraduate Certificate you would need to successfully complete one core course and option courses to the value of 60 CATS.

## Careers

This distinctive MA programme has been carefully designed to give you the skills and knowledge required for a career in the burgeoning new technology sector. In addition, the Department of Sociology has a strong track record of successful graduate employment, with students embarking on professional careers in social research, think tanks, the arts and cultural sectors, government and public administration, development, human rights, NGOs, and in global media and communications. They have also progressed to PhD study.

## Find out more

If you have specific programme queries, once you've read this booklet and the Postgraduate Prospectus, please contact Dr Peter Webb, email [p.webb@gold.ac.uk](mailto:p.webb@gold.ac.uk).



## MA in Photography and Urban Cultures

1 year full-time or 2 years part-time

The MA in Photography and Urban Cultures is offered by the Department of Sociology and benefits from its association with the Centre for Urban and Community Research at Goldsmiths. The Centre has a reputation as a leading research centre in the area of urban sociology and this programme builds on the strengths of the centre's work in the field of visual ethnography.

This unique MA has been developed in response to the increasing interest in urban theory and the visual representation of urban cultures and places. You will be encouraged to produce a visual research document, or a body of photography that will form the basis of a final assessed portfolio. This visual project is part of the final dissertation combining both written and visual elements and is supported by a series of dissertation seminars, visual critiques and individual tutorials.

You will also have the opportunity to exhibit and publish your work in the context of this and other research work. Joining this programme is an invitation to become part of the Centre's network of scholars and researchers and to benefit from being based in a thriving research culture and creative atmosphere.

For further details, please visit [www.gold.ac.uk/pg/ma-photography-urban-cultures](http://www.gold.ac.uk/pg/ma-photography-urban-cultures).

### What do you study?

Three core courses will: introduce you to contemporary examples of photographic practice and city life; cover a selection of the key and historic texts of social theory, which consider cities, spatiality and urban form; provide a historical overview of the different attempts at mapping and documenting urban life in London. You also choose options to the value of 30 CATS from a range of courses across the college and you write a dissertation that reflects critically on a portfolio of work you will provide in an end-of-year show.

### Core Courses

#### Through the Lens: Photography and Urban Cultures, Parts A & B

This introduces you to contemporary examples of photographic practice and city life. It offers you a range of critical perspectives on photographic practice from within sociology, anthropology, cultural studies and visual arts theory. It also includes discussions of the work of contemporary media practitioners and photographic artists (including some visiting practitioners) and examines issues in relation to visual ethnography, the place of photography in photojournalistic/documentary and fine art practice. You are encouraged to examine the interplay between urban theory and your own visual practice in the lecture seminars, and to use your own visual images, where relevant, within the associated module essays. These modules are supported by practice-related talks given by international visiting artists.

#### Navigating Urban Life

The core course Navigating Urban Life focuses on the cultural theory, politics and representation of the globalising city and so consequently has a particular importance in equipping students with a unique understanding of the interface between theory and practice in the representation of urban cultures; a sophisticated understanding of different methodologies in carrying out research in complex urban settings; an advanced competence in producing a research-based dissertation (60 CATS) in the humanities and social sciences; an advanced fluency with current debates in critical cultural theory around the city; an advanced understanding of the theoretical debates in contemporary urban studies; a sophisticated understanding of debates around the production of knowledge about the city.

You are encouraged to link your visual and media practices to the wider theoretical debates in this module, and to reflect on how such discourses might in turn be relevant to the production of visual texts and a critical engagement with photographic historiography.

### Options

You choose Options to the value of 30 CATS from a range of courses available in Sociology (see list on page 28), Anthropology, Cultural Studies, English and Comparative Literature, Media and Communications and Politics.

### Dissertation and Major Visual Project

The Dissertation can be comprised of two parts: a portfolio and a 6-8,000-word dissertation. Alternatively, you may submit a 12-15,000-word written Dissertation.

The Dissertation will consist of: an account of the rationale of the photographic project; a critical evaluation of photographic practice and issues of reflectivity and knowledge production. In combination with the written part you will be expected to provide evidence of a sustained and coherent body of photographic work focusing on an aspect of urban culture for assessment. Previously, work from Final Visual Projects has been shown on a virtual gallery space linked to the CUCR website.

### Seminars and Practice Workshops

The programme offers a comprehensive range of practice workshops and related seminars covering analogue and digital photographic practice, introduction to medium-format practice, location lighting, sound recording, portfolio development, landscape photography, portraiture, street photography, and a number of urban field-walks associated with the CUCR. Additionally, students are invited to attend an informal international visit (in the past these have included Berlin and Riga) combining talks, walks, gallery visits and photographic project work.

There is a weekly Talking Practice (normally held Thursday morning) seminar where students are encouraged to give a presentation about their work for group feedback and informal assessment. In the third term, you focus on the development and realisation of the dissertation, incorporating your Final Visual Project and written component, and this is supported by a number of related seminars, workshops and tutorials.

### Assessment

You will be assessed by a combination of essays, plus a Dissertation and your final visual project.

### Skills

This MA develops skills in urban photography, visual ethnography and urban research, communications for urban planning, community arts and visual arts practice.

### Careers

Doctoral studies; curating; public relations; urban planning; advertising; community arts; education; social research; journalism.

### Attendance

We aim to teach all of the Core Courses on two weekdays, with a good choice of Options also available on those days. For information about attendance, please contact the Department of Sociology; contact details are on page 32.

### Funding

The MA is recognised by the Arts and Humanities Research Council for postgraduate funding under its Block Grant Partnerships Scheme. Please visit [www.gold.ac.uk/ahrc/](http://www.gold.ac.uk/ahrc/) for further details.

In addition to the above funding, the Department of Sociology offers one Kirsty MacColl Scholarship, which covers fees only for EU/Home applicants only. Only successful MA In Photography and Urban Cultures, and World Cities and Urban Life are eligible to apply for this.

### Postgraduate Diploma and Postgraduate Certificate Routes

Postgraduate Diploma (PgDip) and Postgraduate Certificate (PgCert) awards are also available in this programme. For the award of Postgraduate Diploma, you would need to successfully complete the three core courses and an option course(s) to the value of 120 CATS; for the Postgraduate Certificate you would need to successfully complete one core course and option courses to the value of 60 CATS.

### Applying

When applying, please ensure that your written application is accompanied by a visual portfolio of work engaging with the idea of the urban. This might include landscapes, portraits, street photography, visual community studies, experimental and fine art images, or other relevant visual practices. It is essential that the portfolio is edited (as a PowerPoint or Acrobat/PDF presentation) and that websites are not included as the main portfolio.

Alternatively, you may wish to submit a traditional, print-based portfolio. Please ensure that your portfolio contains no more than twenty images. If work is to be shown on video, or other digital media, please ensure that it can be read as a QuickTime movie.

### Find out more

If you have specific programme queries, once you've read this booklet and the Postgraduate Prospectus, please contact Paul Halliday, e-mail [p.halliday@gold.ac.uk](mailto:p.halliday@gold.ac.uk).



# MA in Social Research

1 year full-time or 2 years part-time

The MA Social Research offers high quality research training for those interested in MPhil/PhD and who need to carry out or evaluate advanced sociological research as part of their current work or future career development. The MA is recognised by the ESRC for its 1+3 and +3 graduate training schemes and aims to provide excellence in research training for both academic and non-academic researchers. It is concerned with both quantitative and qualitative methods and their application in the study of substantive areas, as well as the relationship of research studies to sociological theory. As part of this MA, you carry out your own original social research through the dissertation.

The MA is based on workshop approaches that are designed to teach skills rather than to convey passive knowledge. It covers a range of methodologies including interviewing and observation, analysis, ethnographic work and statistical analysis of large-scale quantitative data sets. It addresses a wide variety of contemporary theoretical traditions from textual analysis to ethnography, actor network theory and feminism.

For further details, please visit [www.gold.ac.uk/pg/ma-social-research](http://www.gold.ac.uk/pg/ma-social-research).

## What do you study?

Core courses will: introduce you to methodological and theoretical perspectives via data analysis exercises; cover the analysis of the role of numbers in constructing sociological arguments; enable you to learn both qualitative and quantitative computing and analytical skills. You also produce a dissertation with individual supervision by a member of staff with expertise in your chosen area of study.

## Core Courses

### Theory, Concepts and Methods of Social Research I & II

This is a two-term course offering advanced training in a range of long-established and innovative research methods associated with the qualitative tradition including mapping techniques, new media, archival research, interviewing, focus groups and biographical and visual methods. It is delivered by a team of active researchers with specialist expertise in the methods covered.

### Modelling Social Data I

This is a one-term course that provides advanced training in the application of quantitative methods in social research, as well as the philosophy behind it. It offers the opportunity to carry out secondary analysis of official and other data sets using SPSS 14 for Windows and the qualitative data analysis software NVivo.

### Modelling Social Data II

This one term course builds on the quantitative skills developed in Modelling Social Data I. It offers advanced instruction in multiple regression and path analysis. It also teaches the application of logistic modelling techniques to the analysis of categorical data.

## Dissertation

The Dissertation is central to the learning and teaching environment of this degree. You conduct an individual research project, influenced by your experience of the degree and your interests. The project is original in content, individual in aspiration and moulded by a continuing dialogue between you and your supervisor. The resulting Dissertation should synthesise theory and method. The Dissertation is supported through workshops in addition the core course components.

## Supervision

Your supervisor will advise on your Research Dissertation.

## Assessment

The methods of assessment reflect the degree of independent critical thought appropriate to graduate work. They involve assessed essays and the Dissertation as follows:

### Theory, Concepts and Methods of Social Research I & II

A 5-6,000-word essay for each part.

### Modelling Social Data I

An 5-6,000-word essay or project report, or two separate 2,500-3,000-word essays.

### Modelling Social Data II

A project report involving a write-up of work done with qualitative and quantitative data sets. This may be in the form of two separate 2,500-3,000-word reports, or one 5,000-6,000-word report.

## Options

There are no options courses available for this MA because of its dedicated research training requirements, but your dissertation supervisor or tutor may suggest options courses in the Department of College you might want to audit.

## Dissertation

A 12,000-15,000-word Dissertation to be submitted at the end of Year 1 for full-time students, and at the end of Year 2 for part-time students.

College generic research training programme  
MA Social Research students are required to take part in selected elements of the College's Research Training programme, normally taken by research students studying for PhD work. These elements complement the MA courses, adding to the value of your degree. Full details of this programme will be given to you on entry to the MA.

## Skills

Understanding of current and emerging concepts and theoretical approaches that are central to sociology; capacity to generate and execute sociological research at an advanced level; ability to examine how social, public and civil policy can be influenced by sociological knowledge; capacity to compose and analyse sociologically informed questions; ability to investigate, appraise and communicate empirical information.

## Careers

The MA is ideal research preparation for an MPhil/PhD and a future academic career in Sociology. It is also suited for those in the public, health and third/NGO sector who might already undertake some social research but want to advance their social research skills and training either as part of their existing work or their future career development.

## Attendance

Full-time students are expected to attend on two or three days per week in term time, depending on their choice of Options. Part-time students are expected to attend on at least one day (either Thursday or Friday) in term-time and perhaps one other.

## Funding

The Sociology MA Social Research programme is recognised by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) for excellence in research training. For information on eligibility, see above under Funding.

## Postgraduate Diploma and Postgraduate Certificate Routes

Postgraduate Diploma (PgDip) and Postgraduate Certificate (PgCert) awards are also available in this programme. For the award of Postgraduate Diploma, you would need to successfully complete Theory, Concepts and Methods of Social Research I and II and Modelling Social Data I and II; for the Postgraduate Certificate you would need to successfully complete Theory, Concepts and Methods of Social Research I and Modelling Social Data I.

## Find out more

If you have specific programme queries, once you've read this booklet and the Postgraduate Prospectus, please contact Dr Marsha Rosengarten, e-mail [m.rosengarten@gold.ac.uk](mailto:m.rosengarten@gold.ac.uk).



## MA in World Cities and Urban Life

1 year full-time or 2 years part-time

Cities continuously provide new challenges to understanding the constraints and potentials of both human and non-human life. Sociology finds itself operating in remade urbanities that can be loosely tagged with a variety of geometrical and geographic notions – for example, fractals, polymorphs, polyarchs, transduction, translocality, transcultural, transnational, rhizome, meshworks, and transversals – which are often invoked as if they have some magical power rather than providing us with any deeper understanding.

The key educational challenge concerns what it is possible for the cities and urban life to do and how. How can individuals and groups navigate these architectures and circuitries of powers; how do they participate in the open-ended possibilities embodied by new configurations of collective action simultaneously occasioning both emergency and potentiality; how can teachers, researchers, professionals, activists, entrepreneurs, and artists – all possible constituencies for this program – conceptualise and operationalise work, projects, and careers that take them across various geographical locales, institutional domains, discourses, and social networks?

The programme is hosted within the Centre for Urban and Community Research (CUCR) and forms part of the Department of Sociology's portfolio of Master's programmes.

For further details, please visit [www.gold.ac.uk/pg/ma-world-cities-urban-life](http://www.gold.ac.uk/pg/ma-world-cities-urban-life).

### What do you study?

The course intersects literature from urban planning, architecture, cultural and postcolonial studies, subaltern urbanism, global studies, digital media and design, urban ethnography and sociology, environmental studies and sustainable technologies, geopolitics, governance, and economic development.

### Core Courses

The programme consists of three core courses:

- Remaking Urban Life: from Dakar to Guangzhou (Term 1)
- Inventive Methods for Researching the City (Term 1)
- Navigating Urban Life (Term 2)

### Options

Students completing the MA must take option courses to the value of 30 CATS, which can be selected from any Department across the College with the permission of the Department.

### Assessment

All core courses require the completion of 5-6,000-word essay or a visual, media, web-based presentation accompanied by a 1,000-word commentary.

### Dissertation

A 12,000-15,000-word Dissertation to be submitted at the end of Year 1 for full-time students, and at the end of Year 2 for part-time students. Alternately, students can present video, film, web-based media presentation with a 5,000-word commentary.

### Skills

Analytical and research skills that intersect basic sociological knowledge with that of architecture, the built environment, cultural and postcolonial theory, geography, planning, digital communications, and ethnography as they apply to the study of cities across the world.

### Careers

The training in this programme is applicable to work in multilateral institutions, NGOs, urban research institutes, municipal government, cultural and policy institutions, urban design firms, and universities.

### Attendance

Full-time students are expected to attend on two days per week in term time, depending on their choice of Options. Part-time students are expected to attend on at least one day (either Thursday or Friday) in term-time and perhaps one other.

# Department of Sociology Options

## Funding

The MA is recognised by the Arts and Humanities Research Council for postgraduate funding under its Block Grant Partnerships Scheme. Please visit [www.gold.ac.uk/ahrc/](http://www.gold.ac.uk/ahrc/) for further details.

In addition to the above funding, the Department of Sociology offers one Kirsty MacColl Scholarship, which covers fees only for EU/ Home applicants only. Only successful MA In Photography and Urban Cultures, and World Cities and Urban Life are eligible to apply for this.

## Postgraduate Diploma and Postgraduate Certificate Routes

Postgraduate Diploma (PgDip) and Postgraduate Certificate (PgCert) awards are also available in this programme. For the award of Postgraduate Diploma, you would need to successfully complete the three core courses and an option course(s) to the value of 120 CATS; for the Postgraduate Certificate you would need to successfully complete one core course and option courses to the value of 60 CATS.

## Find out more

If you have specific programme queries, once you've read this booklet and the Postgraduate Prospectus, please contact Professor AbdouMalig Simone, e-mail [a.simone@gold.ac.uk](mailto:a.simone@gold.ac.uk).

A list of possible Department Options follows. You will see that in some cases, the Core Courses for one MA are available as Options for the other MA programmes.

**Please note:** this list is only indicative of the type of Options that might be available. Options are taught by staff actively researching in the area and are continually revised in-line with contemporary debates and may change as staff research develops. Admission to these Options may be closed if they are over-subscribed, and Options may not run if an insufficient number of people choose them. Acceptance will be at the discretion of the Option Tutor. All options below equate to **30 CATS** (Credit Accumulation Transfer Scheme) credits.

Consumer, Citizenship and Visual Cultures  
Culture and Politics  
Curating Sociology  
Economic Sociology  
Gender, Affect and the Body (Core Course: MA in Gender, Media and Culture)  
Globalising Human Rights  
Introduction to Feminist and Cultural Theory (Core Course: MA in Gender, Media and Culture)  
Inventive Methods for Researching the City (Core Course: MA World Cities and Urban Life and MA in Photography and Urban Cultures)  
Mapping Capitalism  
Navigating Urban Life (Core Course: MA in World Cities and Urban Life)  
Politics, Identity and the Law  
Race, Politics and Ethics  
Re-making Urban Life (Core Course: MA in World Cities and Urban Life)  
Social Theory of Human Rights and Cosmopolitan Law  
Through the Lens: Photographing City Life (Core Course: MA in Photography and Urban Cultures)  
What is Culture? Key Theoretical Interventions (Core Course: MA in Critical and Creative Analysis)

## Find out more

Details of Options available within other departments can be found in the relevant postgraduate departmental booklets available at [www.gold.ac.uk/booklets](http://www.gold.ac.uk/booklets).



# Staff and their research interests

## **Dr Brian Alleyne**

Research interests in the areas of activism and social movements, globalisation, information technologies, ethnicity, the use of biography and other forms of narrative in social research.

## **Professor Les Back**

Research interests in issues of racism and multiculturalism in urban contexts.

## **Professor Vikki Bell**

Cultural theory, feminist thought and 'continental' philosophy, ethics, aesthetics, notions of performativity and belonging.

## **Dr Kirsten Campbell**

Feminist and post-structuralist social theory, psychoanalytic theory and socio-legal studies.

## **Dr Mariam Fraser**

Facts and value; ethics; process; ontology.

## **Dr Monica Greco**

Concepts of health, illness, therapeutics and/or healing in the context of different forms of medical rationality; concepts of life and vitalism; the body and the organism; social theory in relation to the 'psy' disciplines, emotions, subjectivity/selfhood and mental health; historical theory.

## **Dr Yasmin Gunaratnam**

Corporeal vulnerability, care, and social research methodologies.

## **Paul Halliday**

Photographer and film-maker with an interest in theoretical and practice-led visual ethnography. Urban theory, 'self' and portraiture, cultural archaeologies of landscape, digital media, visual epistemologies, ethics and aesthetics.

## **Dr David Hirsh**

Nationalism; cosmopolitanism; international law; socio-legal studies; crimes against humanity; genocide; holocaust; 'war on terror'; fundamentalism; Israel/Palestine; human rights.

## **Aidan Kelly**

The application of quantitative methodologies in sociological and public policy research.

## **Professor Caroline Knowles**

Race and ethnicity; migrational space and urban life; madness; visual studies and biographical methods.

## **Professor Celia Lury**

Cultural and feminist theory.

## **Professor Mike Michael**

Public understanding of science; sociology of mundane technologies; sociology of biomedical innovation; sociology of everyday life; animals and society; materiality and sociality.

## **Dr Kate Nash**

Sociology of human rights; cultural politics; political sociology; citizenship; social movements; equality and diversity.

## **Dr Pam Odih**

Gender, time and social theory; marketing and advertising discourse.

## **Dr David Oswell**

Cultural studies; sociology of science and technology; sociology of childhood and social theory.

## **Dr Nirmal Puwar**

Dynamics of space and bodies in relation to 'universal' speaking positions and the weight of the somatic norm within national as well as international mainstream and alter arenas.

## **Dr Alison Rooke**

Issues of class, gender and sexualities in urban contexts.

## **Dr Marsha Rosengarten**

Sociological studies of biomedicine and biotechnology, sexuality and theories of the body, HIV.

## **Dr Monica Sassatelli**

Cultural identity, European cultural policies (and cultural politics), the city (in Europe and globally), leisure, landscape and place, experience, aesthetics, art worlds, festivals, culture industries, museums and other 'memory institutions.'

## **Professor Victor Jeleniewski Seidler**

Social theory and philosophy; Marxism and critical theory; moral theory; masculinity and sexual politics; the body and emotional life; ecology and social theory; holocaust and modernity; psychoanalysis and psychotherapy; identity and ethnicity; men and feminism; the sociology of knowledge; morality and social theory; equality and liberal theory.

## **Professor AbdouMaliq Simone**

Various territories, powers, cultural expressions, potentialities, governance and planning discourses, spaces and times in cities across the world.

## **Professor Bev Skeggs, Head of Department**

Class; cultural formations; feminist and poststructuralist theory; Pierre Bourdieu and Karl Marx; sexuality, space and violence.

## **Dr Brett St Louis**

Conceptual and practical status of race, especially in relation to politics and ethics; black/postcolonial radical intellectualism; sociology of sport; sport, culture and aesthetics.

## **Dr Alberto Toscano**

Contemporary social theory and philosophy; Marx and Marxism; recent French thought, in particular the writings of Alain Badiou, Gilles Deleuze, and issues around political ontology; biopolitics; anti-capitalism; theories of political subjectivity; collective and technological individuation (Gilbert Simondon); vitalism and neo-monadology (Tarde, Whitehead); Italian Marxism and operaismo (Panzieri, Tronti, Negri); debates on post-Fordism, immaterial labour and cognitive capitalism; the historical materialist geography of David Harvey; the link between religion and politics (fanaticism, messianism, and political theology).

## **Dr Emma Uprichard**

Complexity theory, methodology, causality, realism, space, time, cities, childhood, food.

## **Dr Nina Wakeford**

Sociology of technology, Feminist and Queer theory, methodology for studying new media and technologies.

## **Dr Peter Webb**

Sociology of Popular Music; popular culture; globalisation; milieu/subcultures, internet and computer-mediated communication, politics and culture, media, social and cultural theory, identity, Pierre Bourdieu, Alfred Schutz.

## **Professional Staff**

Lauren Sibley, Acting Department Manager  
Violet Fearon, Undergraduate Programmes Coordinator  
Sheila Robinson, Postgraduate Programmes Officer  
Elisa Lloyd, Postgraduate Programmes Officer  
Bridget Ward, Postgraduate Research Officer  
Jane Offerman, Research Administrator  
Carole Keegan, CUCR Administrator  
Anh Tu, CUCR Assistant

## Contact us

Please visit [www.gold.ac.uk/pg/sociology](http://www.gold.ac.uk/pg/sociology) for more information about our programmes.

If you have specific questions about the content of our programmes, please contact the Department of Sociology on +44 (0)20 7919 7712, e-mail [sociology.masters@gold.ac.uk](mailto:sociology.masters@gold.ac.uk).

If you have questions about entry qualifications, admissions, or arranging interviews, please contact us as follows:

Course Enquiry Team  
telephone +44 (0)20 7078 5300  
fax +44 (0)20 7919 7509  
e-mail [course-info@gold.ac.uk](mailto:course-info@gold.ac.uk)

We can supply information in alternative formats for people with a visual impairment or dyslexia. Please contact the Course Enquiry team on +44 (0)20 7078 5300, e-mail [admissions@gold.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@gold.ac.uk) for further details.

### Did you find this booklet helpful?

We would welcome any comments you have about the content or design of this booklet. Please e-mail [ext-comms@gold.ac.uk](mailto:ext-comms@gold.ac.uk), or write to Communications and Publicity, Goldsmiths, University of London, New Cross, London SE14 6NW, stating the name of the booklet.

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'Spiral Drawing Sunrise' courtesy of artists, Esther Polak and Ivar van Bekkum.



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## Our Mission

We offer a transformative experience, generating knowledge and stimulating self-discovery through creative, radical and intellectually rigorous thinking and practice.

**Goldsmiths**

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

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