

# Human, Social and Political Sciences Tripos

## Social Anthropology Part IIB

### Guide to papers 2023-24



UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE

Department of Social  
Anthropology

## How to select your papers and track

The link to register your paper choices and an overview of the paper combinations within each HSPS track are available here: [www.hsp.cam.ac.uk/track-options](http://www.hsp.cam.ac.uk/track-options). We ask you to sign up by **Friday 19 May**. Please ensure that you discuss your choices with your Director of Studies prior to submitting online.

Due to the number of options available on the Tripos, we cannot ensure that every option available to you will be clash-free. Whilst the Department of Social Anthropology works very hard to ensure that there are no clashes on core papers for single and joint tracks, the same is not possible for optional or borrowed papers offered outside Social Anthropology, where unavoidable clashes may occur. If you find that your choice of papers does clash, please speak to your Director of Studies.

## Studying Single Track Social Anthropology in Part IIB

In Part IIB, students take two core papers in advanced social anthropology and choose two other papers. For 2023-24 this includes a Social Anthropology dissertation, a SAN4 **ethnographic area paper** not yet studied in IIA, or an **optional paper** (SAN8-15). Social Anthropology single track students can also take the Paper 5 from the History and Philosophy of Sciences Tripos (HPS5) or Paper J9 from the Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Tripos.

Paper one:	SAN5
Paper two:	SAN6
Paper three <sup>(1)</sup> :	Choose one from: SAN10, SAN14 or SAN Dissertation <sup>(2)(3)</sup>
Paper four <sup>(1)</sup> :	Choose one from: SAN4b, SAN4c, SAN4d, SAN4h, SAN10, SAN14; POL13, 17; SOC5-15; HPS5 or J9

### Key to IIB single track Social Anthropology

- 1) A candidate shall not offer in any Part of the Tripos a paper that they have previously offered in another University examination.
- 2) A candidate may substitute for one paper a dissertation on a subject approved by the Head of the Department of Social Anthropology.
- 3) A candidate for Part IIB shall offer four papers, of which at least three shall be assessed by written examination, either in part or in whole.
- 4) Candidates for Part IIB who have taken Part IIA in the HSPS Tripos may not change their subject tracks between Part IIA and IIB, unless changing from a joint track to one of the single subjects within it.

## Studying Social Anthropology in a Joint Track

Students currently taking a joint track degree in Social Anthropology and another subject can continue in Part IIB with either the same joint track or can specialise by switching to a single track in one of the two subjects studied so far. For those continuing with their joint track, the online system will allow you to make your choices as follows:

### Social Anthropology and Politics

Paper one:	Choose one from: SAN5 <i>or</i> SAN6
Paper two <sup>(1)</sup> :	Choose one from: SAN4b, SAN4c, SAN4d, SAN4h, SAN5, SAN6, SAN10, SAN14 <i>or</i> SAN/POL Dissertation <sup>(2)(3)</sup>
Papers three and four <sup>(1)</sup> :	Choose two from: POL6, POL10-22 <i>or</i> SAN/POL Dissertation <sup>(2)(3)</sup>

#### **Key to IIB joint track Social Anthropology and Politics**

- 1) A candidate shall not offer in any Part of the Tripos a paper that they have previously offered in another University examination.
- 2) A candidate may substitute for one paper a dissertation on a subject within the field of Social Anthropology or Politics approved by the Head of the relevant Department.
- 3) A candidate for Part IIB shall offer four papers, of which at least three shall be assessed by written examination, either in part or in whole.
- 4) Candidates for Part IIB who have taken Part IIA in the HSPS Tripos may not change their subject tracks between Part IIA and IIB, unless changing from a joint track to one of the single subjects within it.

## Social Anthropology and Religious Studies (Modern Religion)

Paper one:	SAN5
Paper two <sup>(1)</sup> :	Choose one from: SAN4b, SAN4c, SAN4d, SAN4h, SAN6, SAN10, SAN14 <i>or</i> SAN/THEO Dissertation <sup>(2)(3)</sup>
Paper three <sup>(1)</sup> :	Choose one from: B1a, B1b, B1c, B1d, C1a, C1b, C1c, C1d, C2 - C12 <i>or</i> SAN/THEO Dissertation <sup>(2)(3)</sup>
Paper four:	Choose one from: C2 - C26 <i>or</i> SAN/THEO Dissertation <sup>(2)(3)</sup>

### **Key to IIB joint track Social Anthropology and Religious Studies**

- 1) A candidate shall not offer in any Part of the Tripos a paper that they have previously offered in another University examination.
- 2) A candidate may substitute for one paper a dissertation on a subject within the field of Social Anthropology or Theology approved by the Head of the relevant Department.
- 3) A candidate for Part IIB shall offer four papers, of which at least three shall be assessed by written examination, either in part or in whole.
- 4) Candidates for Part IIB who have taken Part IIA in the HSPS Tripos may not change their subject tracks between Part IIA and IIB, unless changing from a joint track to one of the single subjects within it.

## Social Anthropology and Sociology

Papers one and two <sup>(1)</sup> :	Choose two from: SOC5-15 <i>or</i> SOC/SAN Dissertation <sup>(2)(3)</sup>
Paper three:	Choose one from: SAN5 <i>or</i> SAN6
Paper four <sup>(1)</sup> :	Choose one from: SAN4b, SAN4c, SAN4d, SAN4h, SAN5, SAN6, SAN10, SAN14 <i>or</i> SOC/SAN Dissertation <sup>(2)(3)</sup>

### **Key to IIB joint track Sociology and Social Anthropology**

- 1) A candidate shall not offer in any Part of the Tripos a paper that they have previously offered in another University examination.
- 2) A candidate may substitute for one paper a dissertation on a subject within the field of Sociology or Social Anthropology approved by the Head of the relevant Department.
- 3) A candidate for Part IIB shall offer four papers, of which at least three shall be assessed by written examination, either in part or in whole.
- 4) Candidates for Part IIB who have taken Part IIA in the HSPS Tripos may not change their subject tracks between Part IIA and IIB, unless changing from a joint track to one of the single subjects within it.



## Our Core IIB Papers

### SAN5 Ethical life and the anthropology of the subject

Course Coordinator: Prof James Laidlaw, [jal6@cam.ac.uk](mailto:jal6@cam.ac.uk)



This paper introduces students to advanced work in anthropology, cross-cultural ethnography, and social theory, including areas of shared interest and/or of controversy between anthropology, theology, psychoanalysis and moral philosophy. The scope of this paper includes: anthropological perspectives on ethics, values, and the place of ideas of the moral in anthropological theory; the anthropology of the emotions, the senses, feelings, and affect; the use of the concept of belief in cross-cultural ethnography and analysis, and the anthropology of a world religion; and anthropological approaches to the study of the self, the subject, personhood, interiority, and subjectivity.

For more information and a course guide: [SAN5](#)

### SAN6 Power, economy and social transformation

Course Coordinator: Prof Harri Englund, [hme25@cam.ac.uk](mailto:hme25@cam.ac.uk) (MT) / TBC (LT & ET)



By engaging with the theories of value, property, labour, and domination so central to the Enlightenment and Marxist conceptions of political economy, the teaching for this paper focuses on anthropology's contributions in providing new perspectives on these classic concerns, as well as developing wholly new ways to understand such world-changing phenomena as ecological catastrophes and environmental justice, the collapse of 'traditional' workplace life and the rise of platform economies. Topics covered will normally include theories of the state; colonialism and decolonisation; indigeneity; nationalism and neo-nationalism; populism; the comparative study of Western and non-

Western capitalisms; anti-capitalism and New Social Movements; labour migration and the workplace; precarity, new digital platform economies; and state and non-state systems of expansion, domination and resistance.

For more information and a course guide: [SAN6](#)

## SAN4 Ethnographic Papers

Please note that SAN4 Ethnographic Area papers are all seminar taught and are capped to enable the best possible learning environment for the whole seminar group. If more students opt for an Ethnographic area than can be accommodated, a lottery will be held after the paper registration deadline has passed. You will be contacted by a member of the admin team in due course and asked to register your choice for a second paper for your track.

### SAN4b: South America

Course Coordinator: Dr Natalia Buitron, [nb668@cam.ac.uk](mailto:nb668@cam.ac.uk)



The course covers material from urban Latin America, the Andes and Amazonia. We will draw on South American ethnographies to explore broad anthropological themes such as ontological difference, nature and culture, post- and de-coloniality of knowledge and politics, activist anthropology, resource extraction, race, precarity and urban life.

One of the most distinctive features of South America as a region is its highly politicized nature, so much of the paper situates itself within political anthropology, covering ethnographic material from across the region. In student-led seminars we examine politics viewed 'from below', namely from the perspective of indigenous people and peoples, women, peasants, the working classes and the poor. We ask how and on what basis people organise to contest dominant

political narratives and deal with themes such as the nature of democracy and citizenship; the role of violence and terror in the political imaginary and people's lives; urbanism and the city under neoliberalism; religion and gender. In a series of seminars on Amazonia, we will explore questions of human-nature relations, the environment, extractivism, indigeneity, the body, kinship, and shamanism.

Throughout the course, students will be encouraged to view and discuss a series of contemporary films from the region and relate them to their reading of the ethnographic material.

For more information and a course guide: [SAN4b](#)

### SAN4c: Middle East

Course Coordinator: Prof Yael Navaro, [yn213@cam.ac.uk](mailto:yn213@cam.ac.uk)

This is a paper on the historical anthropology of the Middle East with a focus, primarily, on post-Ottoman and post-colonial Syria, Lebanon, Palestine/Israel, Iraq, Turkey, Jordan and Egypt. Through a series of lectures and seminars, we examine, study and critically discuss historical and anthropological works on the following themes: Orientalism and cultures of representing the Middle East; colonial and post-colonial state practices; nation-building and contested geographies; gender, sexuality and intimacy; cultures of 'modernity'; political cultures and subjectivities; Islam, secularism and the governmentalization of religion; pious communities, 'ordinary Islam', and Islamist movements; political violence and memory; minorities and minoritization practices; inter-communal relations and 'sectarianism'; and media, popular culture and literature, among others. Lectures and seminars will be based on ethnographic and historical sources, including visual materials.



For more information and a course guide: [SAN4c](#)

### **SAN4d: South Asia**

Course Coordinator: Dr Perveez Mody, [pm10012@cam.ac.uk](mailto:pm10012@cam.ac.uk)

This paper acquaints students with the richness and diversity of the anthropological study of South Asia, focusing on the Indian sub-continent and the countries of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka. It explores both the historically well-developed anthropology of the region and much contemporary research. Its concerns include an understanding of the history of the region, theories of caste; pilgrimage, devotional experience in Hinduism; popular and politicised religion and religious nationalism; Sufism and Islam, syncretism and religious reform; also gender, sexuality and kinship; the significance and legacy of key social and political thinkers such as Gandhi, Nehru and Ambedkar; social movements among 'tribal' and 'subaltern' groups; democracy, governance, communal and religious conflict; class, consumption and the individual and the South Asian diaspora. The paper is taught through seminars and some lectures and film screenings, in a single integrated series of seminars running through all three terms.



For more information and a course guide: [SAN4d](#)

### **SAN4h: Southeast Asia**

Course Coordinator: Dr Liana Chua, [lclc2@cam.ac.uk](mailto:lclc2@cam.ac.uk)



Southeast Asia broadly refers to the region that lies between East Asia, South Asia and the Pacific, and that includes the modern nation-states of Myanmar, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, the Philippines, Brunei and East Timor. These nation-states form the political and socio-economic infrastructure of regional geopolitics, shaping contemporary forms of citizenship, belonging, development and mobility. Yet cutting across these national boundaries are long histories and (still ongoing) processes of exchange, hybridity and creativity that link the societies of Southeast Asia to each other and the wider world. Always porous and not always easily defined, Southeast Asia has long been a contact zone between different cultural, linguistic, religious and political influences.

This paper revolves around the constant, generative tension between fixity and fluidity in Southeast Asia. Through seminar-based discussions, we'll explore various transformative encounters that have shaped socio-cultural formations across the region. At the same time, we'll examine the politics, structures and processes—such as (post)colonial bureaucracies, developmental regimes and neoliberal projects—that frame such encounters, often seeking to regulate or suppress their effects. These explorations raise some key questions, such as: What, if anything, is distinctive about Southeast Asia? What modes of belonging and identity are at stake in a region marked by constant mobility and mutability? How do precolonial and colonial inheritances shape the present and future? How is all this experienced and conceptualised on the ground?

Topics may include: Nationhood and nationalism; Indigeneity and ethnicity; Gender; Citizenship, mobility, belonging; Religious transformations; Memory; Development; Neoliberalism; Postsocialism; Tourism; Grassroots movements; Environmentalism and conservation.



For more information and a course guide: [SAN4h](#)

## IIB Optional Papers

### **SAN10 The Anthropology of Post-Socialist Societies**

Course Coordinator: Prof David Sneath, [ds114@cam.ac.uk](mailto:ds114@cam.ac.uk)



The paper explores current transformations in a variety of contexts including the former Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, China, Mongolia Tanzania, Guinea, and Ethiopia. Although the majority of these countries and regions have abandoned socialism for different political and economic paths, China has embraced a market economy while remaining a party-state. This paper explores current transformations as well as the relation between change and continuity in a number of late-socialist and post-socialist societies. It draws upon case studies from a range of contexts that offer a rich field for ethnographic and theoretical exploration of the complexities of change, memory, identity and nationhood.

For more information and a course guide: [SAN10](#)

### **SAN14 The Anthropology of History, Memory and Time**

Course Coordinator: Prof Yael Navaro, [yn213@cam.ac.uk](mailto:yn213@cam.ac.uk)

This paper will trace anthropological ways of addressing questions about historicity, temporality, and memory. We will explore distinctively anthropological methods in the study of the past. Is 'history' the right rubric for ethnographic queries into people's engagements with their past? Such a framing question in the paper will go hand-in-hand with an in-depth survey of the anthropology of time. What kind of a repertoire have anthropologists produced in their study of people's distinctive and diverse temporalities, and how can anthropological concepts of time be put into critical engagement with those taken for granted by academic historians? The paper will include distinctive ethnographies from across the world that imaginatively expose the place of 'memory' in people's engagements with their past. Anthropological ways of approaching 'archives' will be a component of the course, as well, including emergent archival theory which expands more conventional approaches to 'the archive.'



For more information and a course guide: [SAN14](#)

## Anthropology Dissertation

Course Coordinator: Dr Andrew Sanchez, [as2672@cam.ac.uk](mailto:as2672@cam.ac.uk)



Students may offer a dissertation of up to 10,000 words in place of a paper; they choose a topic and discuss supervision, a supervisor and fieldwork issues with their Director of Studies. For many students the opportunity to study a topic of their choosing in depth is the most rewarding part of the Tripos. Students are advised to start considering a topic and supervisor for their dissertation in the Easter term of their second year; Directors of Studies can help with these decisions. Many students do research for their dissertations over the summer vacation before the start of the third year. Students doing a Social Anthropology dissertation must submit in early Easter term a dissertation fieldwork form (FORM1) which needs to be signed and approved by both the Directors of Studies and Dissertation Supervisor. For other topics please follow the guidelines on the other Department's

websites. Titles are required to be submitted before the division of Michaelmas term in IIB. A precise date for dissertation titles submission will be set and communicated to students ahead of the start of Michaelmas. In addition to individual supervision, workshops will be provided to assist students with the planning of their dissertation which is submitted in the first week of Easter term.

Social Anthropology dissertation process is clearly set out on the [Dissertation](#) webpage.

## List of IIB Papers available in 2023-24

### SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY

SAN5	Ethical life & the anthropology of the subject	Prof James Laidlaw
SAN6	Power, economy & social transformation	Prof Harri Englund (MT)
SAN4	The anthropology of an ethnographic area:	
	SAN4b South America	Dr Natalia Buitron
	SAN4c Middle East	Prof Yael Navaro
	SAN4d South Asia	Dr Perveez Mody
	SAN4h Southeast Asia	Dr Liana Chua
Part II Options Papers:		
SAN10	Post-socialism	Prof David Sneath
SAN14	The Anthropology of history, memory and time	Prof Yael Navaro
Dissertation	Up to 10,000 words on a topic chosen by the student and approved by the Head of Department	Dr Sanchez

## **POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES**

POL6	Statistics and Methods in Politics and International Relations
POL10	The History of Political Thought from c.1700-1890
POL11	Political Philosophy and the History of Political Thought since c.1890
POL12	The Politics of the Middle East
POL13	British and European Politics
POL14	International Security
POL15	The Politics of Africa
POL16	The Politics of China
POL17	Politics and Gender
POL18	Politics of the International Economy
POL19	Themes and issues in Politics and International Relations II
POL20	Politics of Latin America
POL21	Politics of the Future
POL22	Politics and Public Policy

## **SOCIOLOGY**

SOC5	Statistics and methods
SOC6	Advanced social theory
SOC7	Media, culture and society
SOC9	Global capitalism
SOC10	Gender
SOC11	Racism, race and ethnicity
SOC12	Empire, colonialism, imperialism
SOC13	Health, medicine and society
SOC15	Criminology, sentencing, and the penal system

## **THEOLOGY**

B1a	Intermediate Hebrew
B1b	Intermediate New Testament Greek
B1c	Intermediate Sanskrit
B1d	Intermediate Qur'anic Arabic
C1a	Advanced Hebrew
C1b	Advanced New Testament Greek
C1d	Advanced Arabic
C2	The Five Scrolls
C3	New Testament Christology
C4	Topic in the History of Christianity
C5	Topic in Christian Theology: Charity
C6	Disputed Questions from Medieval and early modern Theology
C8	The Jewish Tradition and Christianity: from antiquity to modernity
C9	Islam II
C10	Hinduism and Buddhism II
C11	Truth, God and Metaphysics
C12	Theology and the Natural Sciences: God and Creatures
C13	Judaism in the Persian Period: Empire, Religion and Identity

C14	Christianity, Hellenism and Empire
C15	Contemporary Christian Theology
C16	The Doctrine of God
C19	Self and Salvation in Indian and Western Thought
C20	Topic in the History of Christianity - Slavery and Early Christianity
C22	Philosophy, Ethics and the Other
C23	Judaism and Hellenism
C24	Topic in World Christianity: Decolonising Christendom: the Complex Legacies of Global Christianity
C26	The Play of Imagination

## HSPS Administration

### Administrators

If you have any queries about a particular subject, or need to notify us of any changes, please contact the administrator:

Social Anthropology:	Claudia Luna	<a href="mailto:cl353@cam.ac.uk">cl353@cam.ac.uk</a>
Politics:	UG Administrator	<a href="mailto:ugradadmin@polis.cam.ac.uk">ugradadmin@polis.cam.ac.uk</a>
Sociology:	Paulina BaltSoukou	<a href="mailto:undergrad@sociology.cam.ac.uk">undergrad@sociology.cam.ac.uk</a>
Faculty Teaching Administrator:	Hayley Bell	<a href="mailto:hab41@cam.ac.uk">hab41@cam.ac.uk</a>