South Asian Public Culture: Keywords (SCAN10071)
University of Edinburgh  
School of Social & Political Science  
Social Anthropology  
2015 – 2016  

*South Asian Public Culture: Keywords*  
*(SCAN10071)*

### Key Information

| **Course Organiser** | Dr Jacob Copeman  
Email: [Jacob.copeman@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Jacob.copeman@ed.ac.uk)  
Room 5.25  
Chrysal MacMillan Building, George Square  
Guidance & Feedback Hours: Mondays 15.15 – 17.00  
(Teaching Weeks only) |
|---|---|
| **Location** | Semester 1  
Thursdays 16.10 – 18.00  
Biomedical Tutorial Room 3  
Doorway 3, Medical School |
| **Guest Lecturers** | Dr Delwar Hussain  
Email: [dhussain@exseed.ed.ac.uk](mailto:dhussain@exseed.ed.ac.uk)  
Professor Jonathan Spencer  
Email: [jonathan.spencer@ed.ac.uk](mailto:jonathan.spencer@ed.ac.uk) |
| **Course Secretary** | Lizzie Robertson  
Email: [lizzie.robertson@ed.ac.uk](mailto:lizzie.robertson@ed.ac.uk)  
Undergraduate Teaching Office |
| **Assessment Deadlines** | • Padlet Exercise: 12 noon Tuesday 13 October 2015  
• Long Essay: 12 noon Thursday 3 December 2015 |
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Summary
This course provides students with a solid understanding of important contemporary debates in the study of South Asian public culture. Introducing key themes through critical and current ethnographic work, this course focuses on the tangible public forms that global cultural flows, political economies and social formations take. This emphasis on contemporary public culture allows a concrete consideration of abstract and changing social and cultural forces that define the region. The course is informed by the existing concerns in the anthropology of South Asia but focuses on areas largely neglected by it.

Inspired by Raymond Williams' 'keywords' approach to culture and society, this course examines the subcontinent from unexpected angles by gathering key ethnographic readings under conceptual keywords to be explored empirically and theoretically. The course approaches the region as an integrated socio-cultural whole, rather than a set of self-contained nation-states.

Course Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Keyword</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>24.09.2015</td>
<td>Publicity &amp; Nation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>01.10.2015</td>
<td>Display</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>08.10.2015</td>
<td>Superstition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>15.10.2015</td>
<td>Duplicate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>22.10.2015</td>
<td>Democracy (JS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>29.10.2015</td>
<td>Secularism (JS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>05.11.2015</td>
<td>Border (DH)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>12.11.2015</td>
<td>Guru</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>19.11.2015</td>
<td>Sex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>26.11.2015</td>
<td>Name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>03.12.2015</td>
<td>Protest (DH)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Weekly Readings = both seminar texts plus any 2 lecture readings.

A Resource List (Talis Aspire) is available for this course.

Week 1: PUBLICITY and NATION (24 September)

Lecture – Publicity

Lecture – Nation

Week 2: DISPLAY (1 October)

Lecture
Lecture continued
* Srinivas, Smriti (2008) *In the presence of Sai Baba: body, city, and memory in a global religious movement*. Brill. Chapter 3 ‘The sense of the presence’ (76-110)

Seminar

Week 3: SUPERSTITION (8 October)
Lecture
* Srinivas, Tulasi (nd forthcoming), ‘Doubtful Illusions: magic, wonder and a critical practice of virtue in the Sathya Sai movement’. (Available from lecturer)
Seminar

Week 4: DUPLICATE (15 October)
Lecture

Seminar

Week 5: SECULARISM (22 October)
Lecture
Seminar

Week 6: DEMOCRACY (29 October)
Lecture

Seminar

Week 7: BORDER (5 November)
Lecture
Lecture continued


Seminar


* Hussain, Delwar (2009) “Life and death in the Bangladesh-India margins” in Open Democracy:

Week 8: GURU (12 November)

Lecture


Seminar


Week 9: SEX (19 November)

Lecture
* Das, Veena (2007) Life and words: Violence and the descent into the ordinary. University of California Press. (Chapter 2 ‘The Figure of the Abducted Woman: The Citizen as Sexed’ 18-37)

Seminar

Week 10: NAME (26 November)

Lecture
Seminar

Week 11: PROTEST (3 December)
Lecture

Seminar
Summer Readings (also relevant throughout the course)


* Dwyer, Rachel (Ed.) (n.d.) Keywords in South Asian Studies [https://www.soas.ac.uk/south-asia-institute/keywords/](https://www.soas.ac.uk/south-asia-institute/keywords/)


Further Relevant Texts


* Jeffrey, Craig & John Harriss (2014) Keywords for Modern India. Oxford: OUP.

* Williams, R. (1985). Keywords: A vocabulary of culture and society. Oxford: OUP.


ASSESSMENT
Students will be assessed by:

(i) A mid-term Padlet Exercise of 1,000-1,500 words, plus bibliography, due **Tuesday 13 October 2015**: this carries a weighting of 30% towards the final overall mark for the course

(ii) A long essay of 2500 – 3000 words, plus bibliography, due on **Thursday 3 December 2015**: this carries a weighting of 70% towards the final overall mark for the course

**What is Padlet?**
Padlet is an online notice board where you create a ‘wall’ that allows you to collect links to a variety of video, audio, image and text based web sources.

This exercise is designed so that you may connect a particular theme or issue (‘keyword’) covered in the course to wider anthropological debates and to critically reflect on a range of digital sources. The exercise consists of:

(i) Creating a padlet with multimedia examples relating to a chosen ‘keyword’ (it’s up to you which one, though it probably makes sense to stick to keywords from the first half of the course), and

(ii) Writing a short summary and reflection on those examples -- also on the Padlet wall.

Padlet walls must include a bibliography.

The padlet will be assessed under the following criteria:
- Does it demonstrate varied postings from a range of sources?
- Are postings and the reflections on them indicative of a good level of engagement with the course themes?
- Does it demonstrate breadth of understanding of the concepts covered?
- Does it demonstrate knowledge of and use of the literature?
- Have relevant key references been used?

Entries on the padlet wall are time stamped and any additions to the wall after the assessment deadline will not be marked and will be treated in the same way as late submission of other kinds of coursework (please see Hons. handbook for further details of late submission penalties).

Students are required to submit:
- A screenshot of their padlet, and
- A url link to their padlet wall in an email to the course secretary before the deadline.
Creating a Padlet Wall
Go to: http://padlet.com/

- Select ‘LOGIN OR SIGN UP from the top right hand corner of the screen
- Select SIGN UP and sign up using your ed.ac.uk account
- On the Home Screen select ‘Build a wall’
- You will be asked to give your wall a title and description.
- Please use your UUN as a wall title (so it can be marked anonymously)
- You are now ready to start posting to your wall.

Remember:
For each link that you post add a short bit of text to describe the websites, audio files, images and videos (basically anything you can find online) that you have linked to. These few lines should: interpret your examples e.g. explain what you think is interesting about them and what concept(s) you think they represent or illustrate and how; reflect on how it is relevant to the course theme(s) and explain how it adds to the debates we have considered; illustrate how it relates to relevant literature.

Long Essay
The purpose of this part of the assessment is to present a more substantial engagement with a particular keyword. Essay titles may be created by the student in consultation with the course organiser.

Please refer to Appendix 1 for additional information about assessment and submission procedures.

Attendance
Attendance and participation in the lectures and discussion are essential for developing an understanding of the topics.

Communications:
You are strongly encouraged to use email for routine communication with lecturers. We shall also use email to communicate with you, e.g., to assign readings for the second hour of each class. All students are provided with email addresses on the university system, if you are not sure of your address, which is based on your matric number, check your EUCLID database entry using the Student Portal.

This is the ONLY email address we shall use to communicate with you. Please note that we will NOT use ‘private’ email addresses such as yahoo or hotmail; it is therefore essential that you check your university email regularly, preferably each day.
APPENDIX 1 – SUBMISSION & ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

Word Count Penalties
Your South Asian Public Culture: Keywords Padlet exercise should be 1500 words (excluding bibliography). Padlet exercises above 1500 words will be penalised using the ordinary level criterion of 1 mark for every 20 words over length: anything between 1501 and 1520 words will lose one mark, anything between 1521 and 1540 two marks, and so on. Penalties will also be applied in the same manner for the long essay for essays submitted over the 3000 word limit.

You will not be penalised for submitting work below the word limit. However, you should note that shorter essays are unlikely to achieve the required depth and that this will be reflected in your mark.

ELMA: Submission and Return of Coursework
Coursework is submitted online using our electronic submission system, ELMA. You will not be required to submit a paper copy of your work.

Marked coursework, grades and feedback will be returned to you via ELMA. You will not receive a paper copy of your marked course work or feedback.

For information, help and advice on submitting coursework and accessing feedback, please see the ELMA wiki at https://www.wiki.ed.ac.uk/display/SPSITWiki/ELMA Further detailed guidance on the essay deadline and a link to the wiki and submission page will be available on the course Learn page. The wiki is the primary source of information on how to submit your work correctly and provides advice on approved file formats, uploading cover sheets and how to name your files correctly.

When you submit your work electronically, you will be asked to tick a box confirming that your work complies with university regulations on plagiarism. This confirms that the work you have submitted is your own.

Occasionally, there can be technical problems with a submission. We request that you monitor your university student email account in the 24 hours following the deadline for submitting your work. If there are any problems with your submission the course secretary will email you at this stage.

We undertake to return all coursework within 15 working days of submission. This time is needed for marking, moderation, second marking and input of results. If there are any unanticipated delays, it is the course organiser’s responsibility to inform you of the reasons.

All our coursework is assessed anonymously to ensure fairness: to facilitate this process put your Examination number (on your student card), not your name or student number, on your coursework or cover sheet.
Return of Feedback
Feedback for coursework will be returned on the following dates:

Padlet Exercise (via ELMA) = 03 November 2015
Long Essay (via ELMA) = 05 January 2016

The Operation of Lateness Penalties
Unlike in Years 1 and 2, NO EXTENSIONS ARE GRANTED WITH RESPECT TO THE SUBMISSION DEADLINES FOR ANY ASSESSED WORK AT HONOURS LEVEL.

Managing deadlines is a basic life-skill that you are expected to have acquired by the time you reach Honours. Timely submission of all assessed items (coursework, essays, project reports, etc.) is a vitally important responsibility at this stage in your university career. Unexcused lateness can put at risk your prospects of proceeding to Senior Honours and can damage your final degree grade.

If you miss the submission deadline for any piece of assessed work 5 marks will be deducted for each calendar day that work is late, up to a maximum of five calendar days (25 marks). Thereafter, a mark of zero will be recorded. There is no grace period for lateness and penalties begin to apply immediately following the deadline. For example, if the deadline is Tuesday at 12 noon, work submitted on Tuesday at 12.01pm will be marked as one day late, work submitted at 12.01pm on Wednesday will be marked as two days late, and so on.

Failure to submit an item of assessed work will result in a mark of zero, with potentially very serious consequences for your overall degree class, or no degree at all. It is therefore always in your interest to submit work, even if very late.

Please be aware that all work submitted is returned to students with a provisional mark and without applicable penalties in the first instance. The mark you receive on ELMA is therefore subject to change following the consideration of the Lateness Penalty Waiver Panel (please see below for further information) and the Board of Examiners.

How to Submit a Lateness Penalty Waiver Form (LPW)
If there are extenuating circumstances beyond your control which make it essential for you to submit work after the deadline you must fill in a ‘Lateness Penalty Waiver’ (LPW) form to state the reason for your lateness. This is a request for any applicable penalties to be removed and will be considered by the Lateness Penalty Waiver Panel.

Before submitting an LPW, please consider carefully whether your circumstances are (or were) significant enough to justify the lateness. Such circumstances should be serious and exceptional (e.g. not a common cold or a heavy workload). Computer failures are not regarded as justifiable reason for late submission. You are expected to regularly back-up your work and allow sufficient time for uploading it to ELMA.
You should submit the LPW form and supply an expected date of submission as soon as you are able to do so, and preferably before the deadline. Depending on the circumstances, supporting documentation may be required, so please be prepared to provide this where possible.

LPW forms can be found in a folder outside your SSO’s office, on online at: http://www.sps.ed.ac.uk/undergrad/on_course_students/assessment_and_regulations/coursework_requirements/coursework_requirements_honours

Forms should be returned by email or, if possible, in person to your SSO. They will sign the form to indicate receipt and will be able to advise you if you would like further guidance or support.

Please Note: Signing the LPW form by either your SSO or Personal Tutor only indicates acknowledgment of the request, not the waiving of lateness penalties. Final decisions on all marks rest with Examination Boards.

There is a dedicated SSO for students in each subject area in SPS. To find out who your SSO is, and how to contact them, please find your home subject area on the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject Area</th>
<th>Name of SSO</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Chrystal MacMillan Building</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Politics</td>
<td>Irena Coubrough</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Irena.Coubrough@ed.ac.uk">Irena.Coubrough@ed.ac.uk</a></td>
<td>0131 650 4253</td>
<td>Room 1.05,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Relations</td>
<td>Rebecca Shade</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rebecca.shade@ed.ac.uk">rebecca.shade@ed.ac.uk</a></td>
<td>0131 651 3896</td>
<td>Room 1.05,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Anthropology</td>
<td>Vanessa Feldberg</td>
<td><a href="mailto:vanessa.feldberg@ed.ac.uk">vanessa.feldberg@ed.ac.uk</a></td>
<td>0131 650 3933</td>
<td>Room 1.04,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Policy</td>
<td>Louise Angus</td>
<td><a href="mailto:L.Angus@ed.ac.uk">L.Angus@ed.ac.uk</a></td>
<td>0131 650 3923</td>
<td>Room 1.08,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Work</td>
<td>Jane Marshall</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jane.marshall@ed.ac.uk">jane.marshall@ed.ac.uk</a></td>
<td>0131 650 3912</td>
<td>Room 1.07,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sociology</td>
<td>Karen Dargo</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Karen.Dargo@ed.ac.uk">Karen.Dargo@ed.ac.uk</a></td>
<td>0131 651 1306</td>
<td>Room 1.03,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable Development</td>
<td>Sue Renton</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sue.renton@ed.ac.uk">sue.renton@ed.ac.uk</a></td>
<td>0131 650 6958</td>
<td>Room 1.09,</td>
</tr>
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</table>

If you are a student from another School, you should submit your LPW to the SSO for the subject area of the course, Vanessa Feldberg.
Plagiarism Guidance for Students: Avoiding Plagiarism:
Material you submit for assessment, such as your essays, must be your own work. You can, and should, draw upon published work, ideas from lectures and class discussions, and (if appropriate) even upon discussions with other students, but you must always make clear that you are doing so. Passing off anyone else’s work (including another student’s work or material from the Web or a published author) as your own is plagiarism and will be punished severely.

When you upload your work to ELMA you will be asked to check a box to confirm the work is your own. All submissions will be run through ‘Turnitin’, our plagiarism detection software. Turnitin compares every essay against a constantly-updated database, which highlights all plagiarised work. Assessed work that contains plagiarised material will be awarded a mark of zero, and serious cases of plagiarism will also be reported to the College Academic Misconduct Officer. In either case, the actions taken will be noted permanently on the student's record.

For further details on plagiarism see the Academic Services’ website:
http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/academic-services/students/undergraduate/discipline/plagiarism

Data Protection Guidance for Students:
In most circumstances, students are responsible for ensuring that their work with information about living, identifiable individuals complies with the requirements of the Data Protection Act. The document, Personal Data Processed by Students, provides an explanation of why this is the case. It can be found, with advice on data protection compliance and ethical best practice in the handling of information about living, identifiable individuals, on the Records Management section of the University website at:
http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/records-management-section/data-protection/guidance-policies/dpforstudents
APPENDIX 2 – GENERAL INFORMATION

Students with Disabilities.
The School welcomes disabled students with disabilities (including those with specific learning difficulties such as dyslexia) and is working to make all its courses as accessible as possible. If you have a disability special needs which means that you may require adjustments to be made to ensure access to lectures, tutorials or exams, or any other aspect of your studies, you can discuss these with your Student Support Officer or Personal Tutor who will advise on the appropriate procedures.

You can also contact the Student Disability Service, based on the University of Edinburgh, Third Floor, Main Library, You can find their details as well as information on all of the support they can offer at: http://www.ed.ac.uk/student-disability-service

Learning Resources for Undergraduates
The Study Development Team at the Institute for Academic Development (IAD) provides resources and workshops aimed at helping all students to enhance their learning skills and develop effective study techniques. Resources and workshops cover a range of topics, such as managing your own learning, reading, note making, essay and report writing, exam preparation and exam techniques.

The study development resources are housed on 'LearnBetter' (undergraduate), part of Learn, the University's virtual learning environment. Follow the link from the IAD Study Development web page to enrol: www.ed.ac.uk/iad/undergraduates

Workshops are interactive: they will give you the chance to take part in activities, have discussions, exchange strategies, share ideas and ask questions. They are 90 minutes long and held on Wednesday afternoons at 1.30pm or 3.30pm. The schedule is available from the IAD Undergraduate web page (see above).

Workshops are open to all undergraduates but you need to book in advance, using the MyEd booking system. Each workshop opens for booking 2 weeks before the date of the workshop itself. If you book and then cannot attend, please cancel in advance through MyEd so that another student can have your place. (To be fair to all students, anyone who persistently books on workshops and fails to attend may be barred from signing up for future events).

Study Development Advisors are also available for an individual consultation if you have specific questions about your own approach to studying, working more effectively, strategies for improving your learning and your academic work. Please note, however, that Study Development Advisors are not subject specialists so they cannot comment on the content of your work. They also do not check or proof read students' work.

To make an appointment with a Study Development Advisor, email iad.study@ed.ac.uk

(For support with English Language, you should contact the English Language Teaching Centre).
Discussing Sensitive Topics:
This course addresses a number of topics that some might find sensitive or, in some cases, distressing. You should read this Course Guide carefully and if there are any topics that you may feel distressed by you should seek advice from the course convenor and/or your Personal Tutor.

For more general issues you may consider seeking the advice of the Student Counselling Service, http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/student-counselling

External Examiner
The External Examiner for the Social Anthropology Honours programme is: Dr Adam Reed, University of St Andrews.