

Social and political thought

Essentials

Taught programme

MA degree

Social and Political Thought

Research programmes

MPhil, PhD Social and Political Thought

Admissions requirements

For information on overseas qualifications that meet the admissions requirements, refer to pages 156-157

MA

A first- or upper second-class undergraduate honours degree in a humanities or social sciences subject

MPhil and PhD

A Masters degree, or its equivalent, in a subject relevant to your chosen area of research

English language requirements

IELTS 6.5, with not less than 6.5 in Writing and 6.0 in the other sections. Internet TOEFL with 92 overall, with 21 in Listening, 22 in Reading, 24 in Speaking and 25 in Writing. For more information and alternative English language requirements, refer to page 156

Fees

Refer to pages 158-159 for information on fees

Further information

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- Research in social and political thought is interdisciplinary, bridging the conventional divides between social theory, political philosophy, and the history of social and political thought; and between empirical and normative analysis.

- The particular research strengths of the Centre for Social and Political Thought are in the following areas:

- social theory, especially Marxism, Hegel, hermeneutics and critical theory
- recent democratic, socialist and environmentalist thought and practice
- history of political, social and economic thought
- philosophy of social science and the sociology of knowledge
- contemporary political philosophy
- cosmopolitanism
- critical race theory.

- Visit www.sussex.ac.uk/cspt for more information.

A spray-painted stencil in Moldova showing the binning of a socialist emblem. One of the areas of interest students on our programmes in social and political thought examine is the future of socialism in post-communist Europe



Taught programme

MA in Social and Political Thought 1 year full time/2 years part time

The strength of this MA derives from it being a genuinely interdisciplinary programme that bridges the conventional divides between social theory, political theory and philosophy, the history of social and political thought, and the study of political and social movements.

The programme brings together philosophers, sociologists, historians and political scientists who have an interest in the interactions between the explanatory, normative and ideological dimensions of social and political thought.

The MA aims to cover both historical traditions and contemporary developments. Our objective is to provide you with a specialised knowledge of selected areas in contemporary thought and a broad basis in the major European historical tradition.

Career opportunities

Many of our graduates have gone on to have successful careers in law, the media, NGOs, government and administration, and to further research and teaching. It is the interdisciplinarity of this programme that makes it such a good springboard to employment in a range of different areas. Over the last 30 years, a substantial number of leading academics in the UK and elsewhere have graduated from the programme. Among our alumni we count professors of sociology, philosophy and politics, currently working at the Universities of Warwick, Kingston, Cardiff, and LSE, as well as at other universities beyond the UK.

Programme structure

Autumn term: Text and Critique in Social and Political Thought • Theorising the Social.

Spring term: you choose two options from the following: Hegel and Marx • International Relations in World History • Modernity and International Relations • Modern Republicanism and Commercial Society • Political and Legal Philosophy • Race Critical Theory • The Ethics and Politics of Globalisation • The Frankfurt School and Critical Theory • The Idea of Europe • War, Terror, Violence.

Summer term and vacation: you undertake supervised work on the MA dissertation of 20,000 words. There are regular work-in-progress seminars.

For more information about our courses, visit www.sussex.ac.uk/philosophy/pgstudy/maspt

Assessment

The largest assessed element in the MA is the 20,000-word dissertation. In addition, the core courses and options are assessed by 5,000-word term papers.



Research programmes

Research degrees may be pursued on either a full-time or part-time basis and take the form of an MPhil or a PhD. There is wide-ranging supervisory expertise available from faculty in the fields of politics, sociology, philosophy, anthropology, international relations, and history. We have a large and active body of research students from a variety of intellectual and international backgrounds.

Coursework

Although our MPhil and PhD degrees consist primarily of independent directed research, students often participate formally or informally in MA courses. If you do not already have a relevant MA or equivalent, we may require you to take one or more MA courses in your first year. We offer a wide range of research training courses for students. If you have not completed comparable research training elsewhere, you will be required to take some of these courses.

Recent and current thesis titles

Arendt and Foucault

Benjamin and Kafka

Bureaucratism and reformism in social democracy

Communitarianism in current political discourse

Critiques of liberalism

Darwinism, homosexuality and the left

Discourses of the extreme right

Gender and the social construction of whiteness

Intellectual origins of New Labour

Justice, community and singularity

Justice, difference and feminism

Marcuse and the new social movements

Models of social representation

New forms of participatory democracy

Paternalistic legislation

Political elites in Poland

Regional modernities: UK and Denmark

Sartre and political philosophy

The liberal-communitarian debate

Trotsky and the state

Career opportunities

Many of our graduates have gone on to successful careers in research and teaching, the media, and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). Over the last 30 years, a substantial number of leading academics in the UK and elsewhere have graduated from our research programmes.

Academic activities

Centre for Social and Political Thought

The Centre is the organisational base for research associated with social and political thought. A major dimension of the Centre's research is critical social theory. 'Europeanness' is an important part of its identity, as it is for the University of Sussex. The Centre is also the home of the *European Journal of Social Theory*. Currently one Marie Curie Post-Doctoral fellowship is based in the Centre.

At the heart of the Centre's intellectual activity is the graduate/faculty research seminar in social and political thought, at which internal and visiting speakers present papers. All MA and research students are welcome.

There is also a work-in-progress seminar run by research students, at which they present papers for discussion. We have other occasional seminar series and *Studies in Social and Political Thought*, our own in-house journal, is published by a group of students and faculty. It offers an ideal opportunity for our students to publish their work.

The Centre brings together research students and faculty at Sussex who are interested in the interactions between the explanatory, normative and ideological dimensions of social and political thought. The Centre has sponsored conferences on The Future of Critical Social Theory, Social Democracy: Current Ideological Directions, Environmentalism and Critical Realism, Reconstructing Human Rights, and Europe since 1989. Members have also organised conferences on The Good Life, The Direction of Contemporary Capitalism, Hegel: History and Politics, and The Life and Work of Edward Said, as well as graduate conferences every year since 2002.

The Centre has special links with the Social Theory Centre at Warwick University, with whom it organised a major series of seminars on Social Theory and Major Social Transformations and with whom it jointly publishes the journal *Papers in Social Theory*. Faculty have links with a variety of scholars in Europe and North America and often invite colleagues to give papers at Sussex.

Visit www.sussex.ac.uk/cspt for more information.

Faculty research interests

Research interests are briefly described below. For more detailed information, visit

www.sussex.ac.uk/cspt

The main research areas of our faculty include:

- Marx, Hegel, normative foundations of social criticism, recognition theory
- intellectual history, philosophy of history, historiography
- Italian political theory and history, history of the left
- German social theory, critical social theory
- Habermas, Adorno, discourse ethics, moral theory
- poststructuralism
- critical race theory
- philosophy of social science
- civil society and contemporary politics
- cosmopolitan theory, globalisation
- cultural and historical sociology of modernity
- the European cultural and political heritage.

Andrew Chitty Refer to the Philosophy subject entry on page 134.

Professor Gerard Delanty Refer to the Sociology subject area on page 152.

Gordon Finlayson Refer to the Philosophy subject entry on page 134.

Professor Robert Iliffe Refer to the History subject entry on page 106.

Tarik Kochi Refer to the Law subject entry on page 118.

Alana Lentin Refer to the Sociology subject entry on page 152.

Darrow Schecter Gramsci; industrial democracy; theories of socialism; civil society.

Kenny Veitch Refer to the Law subject entry on page 118.

Richard Whatmore Refer to the History subject entry on page 106.