

Welcome to Anthropology at Brunel

Discover
Brunel

Congratulations on securing your place at Brunel

We're looking forward to meeting you - either in person or online - and introducing you to life at Brunel.

To help us get started, we've put together a short activity and some further information to help you prepare for your course - including a snapshot of the topics you'll cover and useful resources.

If you have any questions please email cbass-tpo-gask@brunel.ac.uk.

Pre-arrival activity

We'd like you to complete a short activity before you join us. We can discuss your answers in one of your first personal tutor sessions. Your work will not be officially assessed however it will allow your tutor to get to know you better.

Identify an issue or event of current interest in the media, for example, the government's response to COVID-19.

Find a couple of contrasting views. Be prepared to compare and discuss these views.

Sample lecture topics

As you progress through your degree, these are the types of questions you'll be able to answer with confidence:

1. Why do we give gifts?
2. Is the nuclear family universal?
3. How many subsistence patterns can you list?
4. Is culture vs nature the same as male vs female?
5. What do you think 'rites of passage' means?

Reading list

- Beatty, A. 2019. 'What does anthropology say about the emotional lives of others?'. Aeon (<https://aeon.co/essays/what-does-anthropology-say-about-the-emotional-lives-of-others>)
- Chua, L., 2018. 'Small acts and personal politics: On helping to save the orangutan via social media.' *Anthropology Today*, 34(3), pp.7-11.
- Engelke, M. 2018. *How to Think Like an Anthropologist*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

- Eriksen, T.H., 2016. *Overheating: An anthropology of accelerated change*. London: Pluto Press. (also available as a TEDx talk - <https://www.hyllanderiksen.net/blog/2018/12/12/overheating-the-tedx-version>)
- Froerer, P., 2016. 'Questions and Curiosities, Ignorance and Understanding: Ethnographic Encounters with Children in Central India.' in C. Allerton (ed.) *Children: Ethnographic Encounters*, Bloomsbury Publishing, pp.87-99.
- Hirsch, E., 2008. 'Paradoxes of the Cosmopolitan in Melanesia', In: P. Werbner (ed.) *Anthropology and the new cosmopolitanism*. Oxford: Berg, 197-214, 2008.
- Kastrinou, A.M.A., 2016. *Power, sect and state in Syria: The politics of marriage and identity amongst the Druze*. London: Bloomsbury Publishing.
- Niehaus, I. (2016) 'Marriage, Kinship and Childcare in the Aftermath AIDS: Rethinking Orphanhood in the South African Lowveld'. *Anthropology Southern Africa*, 33 (1). pp. 1 - 22.
- Rollason, W., 2019. *Motorbike People: Power and Politics on Rwandan Streets*. Lexington Books.
- Staples, J., 2014. *Leprosy and a life in South India: Journeys with a Tamil Brahmin*. Lexington Books.
- Tuckett, A., 2018. *Rules, paper, status: Migrants and precarious bureaucracy in contemporary Italy*. Stanford University Press.

We look forward to meeting you in Welcome Week (Monday 21 – Friday 25 September).

Anthropology Team



Find out more about Welcome Week
brunel.ac.uk/welcome-week

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