

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN VISUAL, MATERIAL AND MUSEUM
ANTHROPOLOGY
QUALIFYING EXAMINATION FOR THE MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY IN SOCIAL
ANTHROPOLOGY
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SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Option Paper
Objects in Motion: Debates in Visual, Material and Economic Anthropology

Instructions to Candidates

The examined element for the option consists of one essay of no more than 5,000 words to be submitted not later than noon of the **Tuesday of the second week** of Trinity Term 2015 (Tuesday 5 May). Three copies of the essay must be submitted to the Chairman of Examiners for Anthropology, c/o Clerk of the Schools, at the Examination Schools.

Essays should include a cover sheet giving details of the candidate number, the title of the essay, the degree, the name of the option for which it is being submitted, and the word length. Copies of the cover sheet can be downloaded from the ISCA website.

Students should not attach their names or student numbers to any element of their submitted work; this includes headers of Word files, and video clip file names on CDs / DVDs.

The examiners expect the work to consist primarily of written text, adhering to normal academic standards of presentation, referencing, etc. Where relevant, still images can be inserted directly into the text at the appropriate point, or gathered together as an appendix. In addition, students may wish to include short 'video quotations' from ethnographic or other films, or wish to animate a sequence of still images to make a particular point. For this, students will need to burn files to a CD or DVD. Such electronic materials should be integrated with the written text as a Word document, or as a MS PowerPoint presentation. In the case of video clips it may be simpler to burn them as standalone QuickTime or MP4 movies, clearly titled (e.g. 'Video clip 1', 'Video clip 2'). Whatever form of presentation is chosen, the hard copy text and accompanying CD should be clearly cross-referenced. Even if the full written text is included on the CD, a hard copy printout should be included together with the CD for the examiners to assess (three copies in all cases).

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Option Paper

Objects in Motion: Debates in Visual, Material and Economic Anthropology

*Choose **ONE** question*

1. 'The discourse about consumer choice produces its own anxieties' (Jackson 2012). Discuss with reference to **ONE** of the following: industrial food production; waste; occult economies.
2. Do you agree that money linked with speed and simultaneity produces a culture of risk and effortless gain (Allen and Pryke 1999)?
3. A 'global view' is always 'the provisional and vulnerable product of a long process of stabilizing linkages between sites' (Blok 2010). Discuss in relation to place making practices in **ONE** of the following contexts: climate change; tourism; new technologies.
4. Can consumption bridge the supposed gap between material and spiritual worlds? Focus on one particular religious commodity to illustrate your argument.
5. Draw on two films from the Objects in Motion film programme to explain **ONE** of the following concepts and discuss its relevance for the anthropological study of the cross-cultural circulation of people, goods and ideas: 'trans-temporal hinges' (Pedersen and Nielsen); 'linguistic materiality' (Cavanaugh and Shankar); 'assemblage-theory' (Latour).
6. 'Pure gifts become, in the end, the currency of systems of patronage' (Stirrat and Henkel). Discuss with regards to **ONE** of the following: second-hand economies; organ donation; global aid.
7. Socio-technical controversies are 'powerful apparatuses for exploring and learning about possible worlds' (Callon 2009). Discuss with reference to infrastructural projects.
8. 'The significance of the particular materiality of particular commodities, and how this interconnects with symbolic dimensions of objects is often ignored.' (Mansfeld 2003). Discuss in relation to globalization and the 'politics of difference'.
9. Critically explore the concept of 'instrumental authenticity' (Theodossopoulos 2013) with reference to **EITHER** multi-national companies **OR** fair trade businesses.

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