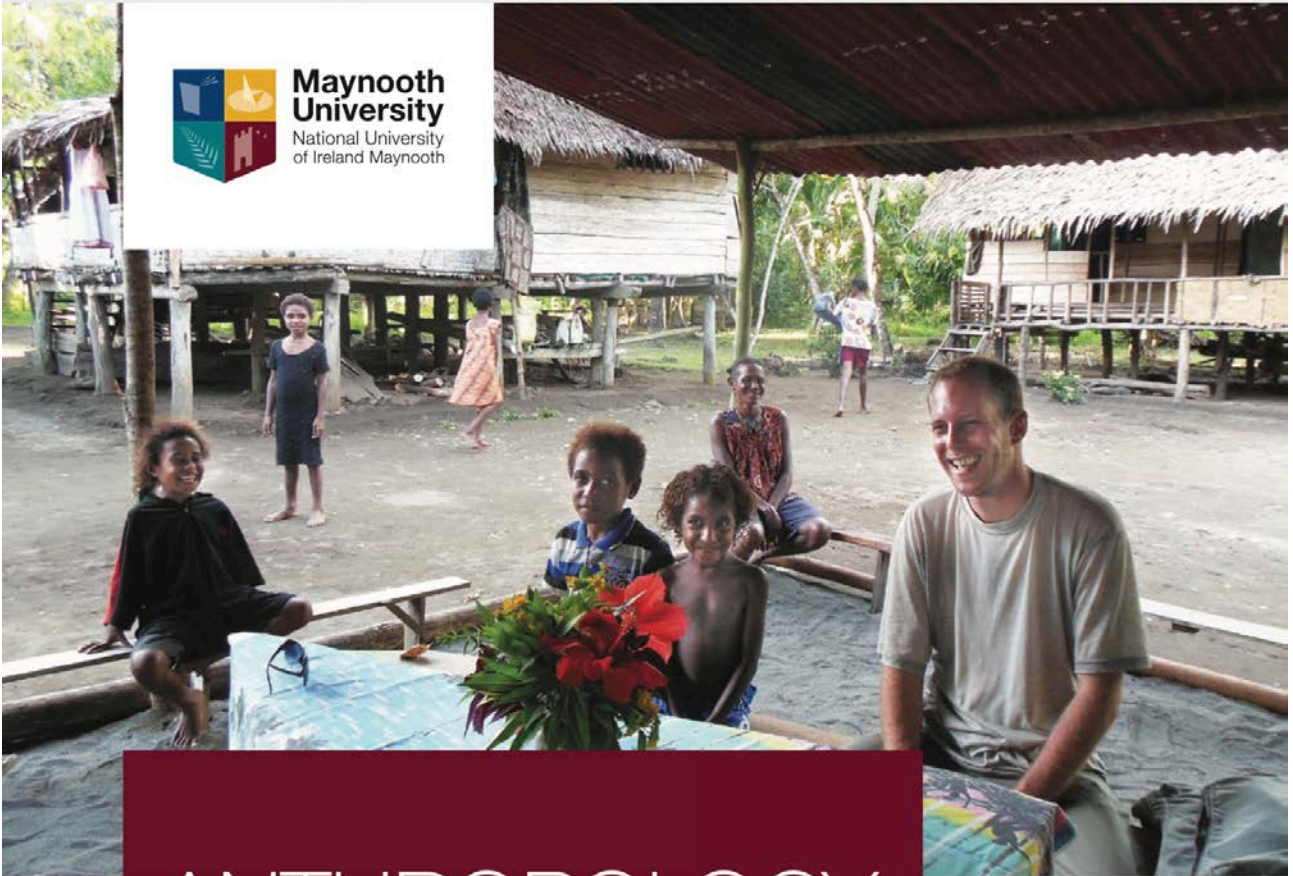




**Maynooth  
University**  
National University  
of Ireland Maynooth



# ANTHROPOLOGY

**Department of Anthropology**

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## Postgraduate Programmes in Anthropology at MU

Postgraduate programmes in Anthropology are designed for students who have a curiosity about culture and about diverse forms of social life the world over. The fieldwork orientation of anthropology focuses on the links between global and local processes, between abstract theory and real behaviour, and between the various dimensions of human life: political, economic, familial, religious, technological, and more. This course prepares students to solve real-world problems by equipping them with a sophistication in social theory tempered by practical engagement with people in their lived contexts.

## Careers

Anthropology complements diverse career paths. Anthropological skills are optimal in an interconnected transnational economy and global political situation, where an understanding of and empathy for cultural difference can help individuals, businesses, and countries to succeed and flourish. As anthropologists we look at human groups and practices comparatively and holistically and this skill prepares students for careers in a wide range of professions including international development, civil service and government, social work, business and finance, journalism, user experience and design research, heritage, ecology and conservation, public health, museum curation, marketing, and more.



The Department of Anthropology has four MA programmes and one PhD programme.

## MA Programmes: MA Anthropology, MA Anthropology & Development, MA Linguistic Anthropology, MA Creole (2-year programme)

Students must take a total of 60 credits of coursework and also complete a Thesis AN634T (30 credits)

Module Code	Module Title	Credits
AN670	Key Concepts in Anthropology I	5
AN673	Key Concepts in Anthropology II	5
AN675A	Theory in Anthropology	10
AN676	Ethnographic Practice	5
AN678	Graduate Seminar in Anthropology	5
AN691	Linguistic Anthropology (compulsory for MA Linguistic Anthropology)	10
AN692	Anthropology and Development (compulsory for MA Anthropology & Development)	10
AN693	Anthropology of Digital Media	10
AN695	Medical Anthropology	5
AN696	Privates and Counterprivates	5
AN662G	Ethnography Winter School (burst format delivery)	5
AN660	Creole Teacher Exchange (burst format delivery)	5

In the autumn and spring semesters, students complete an intensive course of six-week compulsory modules (5 credits each), which will introduce them to key anthropological concepts and areas of research as well as ethnographic practices and anthropological theory. The graduate seminar in anthropology runs through both semesters and is designed as a space where students learn about the latest developments in anthropology and prepare their own MA research projects in discussion with visiting scholars and Anthropology Department academic staff. Students also have a choice of topical modules, on subjects such as language, development, medicine, identity, or digital media. Students develop a proposal for a research project during the taught year in consultation with a faculty advisor. In the summer, students undertake a 30-credit Thesis module, and turn in a completed thesis on their project in early Autumn. MA Creole is a two-year programme whereby students are required to spend two of the four semesters at one or more European Partner Institutions (University of Vienna, University of Barcelona, University of Lyon, University of Ljubljana, University of Bern, Adam Mickiewicz University Poznan).

# POSTGRADUATE MODULES

## **AN670 Key Concepts in Anthropology I // AN673 Key Concepts in Anthropology II**

These modules introduce major concepts in anthropology, demonstrating a range of theoretical and ethnographic approaches through which anthropologists study human cultures and societies. The goal is to help students understand, interpret and engage with real-world issues by equipping them conceptual and substantive knowledge and capacity to locate these varied approaches within anthropological traditions.

## **AN675A Theory in Anthropology**

This module provides an advanced foundation to key social theories, especially from the European Enlightenment tradition but also up to the work of recent post-structural and postcolonial figures. Students will be challenged to grapple with different theories, comparing and contrasting theories before developing their own analysis.

## **AN676 Ethnographic Practice**

Ethnography most commonly describes a core methodological tool in anthropology, but it is also an epistemological tool that anthropologists employ in positioning ourselves and others in the 'field' of research. In this module, we will explore changing attitudes to research methods in anthropology and use key examples to foreshadow preparations for student research proposals. We will examine some classic and contemporary ethnographic works while considering a range of methodological problems: entry to the 'field', data collection, inter-subjective dimensions of fieldwork experience. Moreover, students will be encouraged to think more broadly about new territories of ethnographic endeavour such as ethnography in corporate encounters, visual, digital and sensory ethnography and current approaches to gathering, producing and disseminating knowledge.

## **AN678 Graduate Seminar in Anthropology II**

This seminar is designed as space for postgraduate students (MA and Ph.D. students) to develop their research projects in discussion with visiting scholars and Anthropology Department academic staff. Regular meetings will consist of: 1) seminars in which visiting scholars present their research; 2) discussions with visiting scholars about the relevance of their work to the students' own research and to the current state of the field; 3) presentations and discussions of students' work in progress under the guidance of Anthropology Department academic staff.

## **AN691 Linguistic Anthropology**

This module offers an advanced introduction to Linguistic Anthropology, focusing on classic theory and its recent extensions. The module features: a concise introduction to linguistic form and structure; a survey of historical theories and methodologies for the study of language in use (interactional sociolinguistics, Conversation Analysis, the ethnography of speaking); the development of conceptual tools for the semiotic analysis of language and related cultural forms; analysis of language style, processes of social, gender and ethnic identification, and communities of practice; introduction to the anthropology of poetic speech, performance, and literary texts; methodologies for the study of social life of language from face-to-face interaction to the formation of large-scale publics; exploration of new cultural and linguistic forms emerging in electronically-mediated communication.

## **AN692 Anthropology and Development**

This module provides the foundations for the study of Anthropology and Development by situating the long process of the making of the contemporary Global South at the intersection of world historical and political economic flows. We will begin with a close reading of key texts in the field of historical anthropology in order to trace the emergence of mass poverty, inequality and conflict in our world today. The latter part of the module introduces current anthropological perspectives on, and engagements with, issues of sustainable international development.

### **AN693 Anthropology of Digital Media**

More and more of us are leading digital lives, but because the internet is a global phenomenon it can carry a series of assumptions regarding how it is used or who it is for. In this seminar we will consider digital media in diverse socio-political and cultural contexts to explore how individual, group and institutional interactions are increasingly mediated by these technologies. Are ideas and norms regarding human interaction changing? In Part One of this module we will focus on themes such as the presentation of self in online fora, ideas surrounding the internet and privacy, the encroachment of commercial interests in branding and advertising on digital media. In Part Two we will consider these topics through a close reading of ethnographic examples including Filipina migrants in the UK, hashtag activists in the United States, digital migration in urban China, display and disguise in mobile phone use amongst young Mozambicans and smartphone use among older adults in Ireland.

### **AN695 Medical Anthropology**

These modules offer an advanced introduction to the broad field of Medical Anthropology, focusing on the classical anthropological contributions to this important subfield with a focus on global health, health care systems, care more generally, and suffering. Students will explore ethnographic work on patient-physician relationships, the social and community contexts of care provision, and the impact of bio-medicine on Western and non-Western populations.

### **AN696 Privates and Counterprivates**

Alongside the multiplication of publics and the tacit equation of (economic, moral) value with publicness (even, 'publicity'), there have arrived new types of nonpublic, perhaps anti-public, social formation, but also the contrapuntal feeling that the domain of 'the public good' has been diminished by the intrusions of 'private interest.' Appearing in public, as (a) public, may exhibit our commitment to the constitutive role communicative reason plays in politics, but at the same time it may expose us to surveillance, by either state or corporate actors. Even as context collapse and the selfie seem to have made private life a relentless source of 'social' content, and therefore a rich vein of monetizable value, the digital citizen today frequently also conflates the right to privacy with the ever expanding expectation thereof. A quizzical mood of increasing distrust, even paranoia, accompanies higher incidence of that obsessional disorder we've all grown familiar with: 'posting.' Thus, we observe evolving tactics of disguise, camouflage, hiding, discretion, anonymity, and invisibility in a social ecology that seems to turn every device into an agent of the grid. That distrust indexes a constitutive irony to the apparently liberating, novel, and unique forms of subjectivity and sociality that (counter)publics create. If display/watching defines both the communicative context of politics and the transactional context of the market, in fact state and corporate power (or instead the neoliberal obviation of that distinction) pervade, or try to pervade, every public. Unwanted attention is a primary 'digital risk,' and privacy is thought to afford a source of protection. Paradoxically, insufficient attention is also a risk: what gets seen is controlled by forces not always visible. Thus, when reduced to 'content,' cultural discourse — indeed social life itself — is structured by the (proprietary) algorithms that determine what surfaces in our timelines and search results. And if algorithms are computer codes invisibly influencing what becomes public online, online circulation further presupposes vast unseen infrastructures linking the concrete and the esoteric: content is created and broadcast through enormously complex sociotechnical systems of information and circulation, state surveillance and citizen sousveillance, product design and prosumer impulse purchase, programmer skill and machine code. All of which makes it necessary to ask: what is happening in private? What even is 'the private' or 'privacy' today? Might we see the private as something other than what is left in the shadows of our incessantly flashing ringlights?

### **AN662G Ethnography Winter School**

This module is a comprehensive introduction to ethnography. 'Ethnography' is more than a 'method': it comprises a whole style of thought encompassing forms of observation, analysis, and writing. The module therefore emphasizes analysis and theory in addition to the research practices (interviewing, participant observation, note-taking) conventionally associated with qualitative research methodology. Themes covered include: culture and difference, contexts and cases (working in NGOs, clinics, corporations), styles of representation and the politics of knowledge, research ethics and ethnographic engagement. The module is also structured as a workshop, so that ethnographers at various stages of their careers -- from students

planning proposals, to dissertation writers analysing previously collected material, to research professionals who may not be based in academia -- will be able to produce work within the module that relates to their respective career stages, locations, and goals. This work, such as a proposal draft or a stretch of ethnographic writing, forms the basis for module assessment.

### **AN660 Creole Teacher Exchange**

This is an intensive course, taught in collaboration with visiting staff from the Creole consortium, to introduce students to anthropological work on diversity, cosmopolitanism and mixing by drawing on European scholarship. Content will vary and will be determined by the lecturer.

**Students can also avail of selected modules in the Departments of Geography, Sociology, Media Studies, International Development, and in the School of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures.**

## **PhD in Anthropology / Four-Year Programme**

The Department of Anthropology offers a structured PhD programme, which includes theoretical and practical training in Anthropology. The PhD is an advanced research degree that requires considerable initiative on the part of the student to engage in independent, original scholarship. The objective of the PhD programme is to provide students with professional training in Anthropological research and to produce scholars capable of contributing to international networks in the discipline in an original, ethical, and effective fashion. (Open/Rolling Application Deadline, Funding Available via competitive grants and fellowships).

