

# Social Anthropology: What do you do next?



## About Social Anthropology at Manchester

Founded in 1949 as 'the Manchester School' the Social Anthropology discipline area of the University of Manchester has grown to become one of the largest departments for Social Anthropology in the UK. We have had hundreds of graduates over the last 60 years who have gone on to apply the skills and experiences that the study of Anthropology can develop to an extensive range of career pathways.

This booklet has just a sample of what our Social Anthropology graduates have gone on to do, for more information about our graduates and the career opportunities open to students in Social Anthropology please visit our website (details on back).



### PROFILE: LAUREN BLAKE

After graduating from Manchester in 2007 I went to Guatemala to study Spanish, where I then stayed to volunteer in a local grassroots NGO on education and environmentalism projects funded by eco-tourism. Upon return I worked as a project coordinator for a year and a half in a charity tackling domestic abuse in the UK, working closely with the government. I was also assisting nutrition cookery workshops in my spare time. In 2010 I decided to return to full time education and studied an MA in the Anthropology of Food. During this year I also worked on a research project for the Food Standards Agency's social science research unit. For my dissertation I returned to Guatemala to conduct ethnographic research on malnutrition and intervention projects, funded by the Tropical Agriculture Association. Having been inspired by my research experiences and being back in academia, I am now undertaking a PhD in a collaborative project with the British Library on food activism.

## PROFILE: ORLANDO VON EINSIEDEL

I think I spent 3 years worrying about how doing an Anthropology degree was going to get me a job - but in a roundabout fashion it has pretty much paved the way for my entire career. After my degree, I spent a lot of time snowboarding.



This led onto making snowboard films which then led on to making advertising promos for brands.

However my interest in other societies and ways of life coupled with an ability to sniff out a story (which my Anthropology degree definitely taught me how to do) led me nicely onto journalism and documentary film.

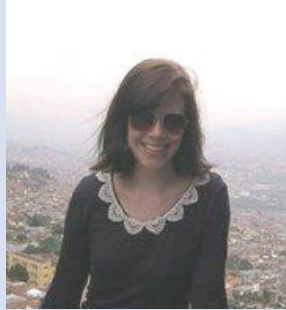


I now spend my time making either journalistic investigations or observational documentaries in various parts of the world and I co-run a film production company in London called Grain Media. A recent project of note was a film I made last year about a skateboard school in Afghanistan.

The film is called "Skateistan: To Live And Skate Kabul" and premiered at this year's Sundance Film Festival.

## PROFILE: EMILY MILLER

Social Anthropology was everything I wanted from a degree and more. I had the opportunity to study so many fascinating things during my degree - it altered my perspective of the world and helped me to question everything! I did lots of work



with young people before and during my degree so when, in my final year, I came across the education charity TeachFirst and jumped at the opportunity to teach Citizenship (many of the same topics as Anthropology) in a challenging Manchester school for two years.

It was hard work but a good experience. I then moved to London where I coordinated a philanthropy (more unpronounceable words!) competition to encourage secondary school pupils to give back to their communities which was a great job and a good next-step after teaching.

This past year I have walked a 700km pilgrimage in Europe, worked for different charities and am currently living and working in Colombia. For the summer I will be in the USA as a leader on conflict resolution camps for teenagers from countries in the Middle East and in September I plan to return to University to do an MA in Conflict Resolution and Peace Studies with a view to taking my career in that direction.

## PROFILE: ANDREW POWELL

I graduated from Manchester University with a degree in Social Anthropology in 2005. I then completed a postgraduate degree in Law and now work as a barrister in London, specialising in family law. Most of the work I do is publicly funded, and the clients I represent in court are often vulnerable and/or disenfranchised from society. My background in anthropology has assisted me in understanding the wide ranging views people have within different socio-cultural contexts, in what are usually very sensitive and personal issues.



Anthropology had a massive role in getting me where I am today – in my pupillage interview (the name for the year spent as a trainee barrister) I debated with my interview panel a recently decided House of Lords case about biological and non-biological parenthood. I remember arguing that in my view the court had placed too much emphasis on biological parenthood over non-biological parenthood in the context of a surrogacy arrangement that had broken down. In terms of my day-to-day work, my background in anthropology has given me a different insight into western notions of kinship and the interplay with how this shapes family law and social policy. I enjoy that I work in an area of law that is people orientated and I've no doubt that the skills acquired in my degree help to make me a better lawyer!



## PROFILE: JESS O'KEEFFE

When I decided to do anthropology after school all I knew was that I was interested in people, and the world, and wanted an excuse to explore this further. What it has done for me is more than I ever expected. After completing a BSocSc in Social Anthropology, I went on to do an MA in Visual Anthropology. This lead me rapidly into working for

documentary film maker, Marc Isaacs, conducting research for some fascinating documentaries for the BBC- including one about BNP supporters in Barking and Dagenham, *All White in Barking*. I have since moved away from film but am still using the research skills I have developed every day. In my current role of Ethnographic Researcher at **thinkpublic** ([www.thinkpublic.com](http://www.thinkpublic.com)) I use anthropology-influenced approaches to help local authorities gain a deeper understanding of their residents, to enable them to make more effective strategy decisions.

Studying anthropology has opened many doors to fascinating experiences, and has indeed allowed me to indulge my insatiable appetite for learning about people. But just as important, I made some of my best friends on the course who are still a big part of my life now. I couldn't recommend it more!



## PROFILE: STEVE DAWE

Anthropology is something that I put into practice on a daily basis. It is not just something which I studied at degree level then left on a top shelf next to my travel albums and outgrown rugby

boots. As Head of the Project Department in a bi-lingual, bi-curricular and bi-cultural school in Cadiz, Spain, I am constantly involved in cross-cultural activity and the more I learn about another culture, the more I understand my own.

In my daily work, I support educational projects, which can be based around anything from theatre, dance, exchanges, language, to video, photography and inter-house competitions. I run a work experience placement for graduates in our nursery school, contracting graduates from all over the world. I also work with colleagues to coordinate a Comenius Lifelong Learning programme with partners in five different European countries, therefore providing our students with the chance to open their minds to cultural experiences beyond their part of the world.

I have lived in Spain for seven years and an important aspect of my work is to act as a cultural interpreter, not only promoting British culture in Spain but also helping people who come to work with us, to understand the Spanish culture. This is clearly a practical application and a transfer of the skills learned through my study of Anthropology at degree level. What I learnt in Manchester is always with me. It is a way of seeing the world, of finding out why things happen and why people are who they are. Anthropology helps you to plant your roots where ever you go, to make friends and understand people.

## PROFILE: ALASTAIR COOK

I'm a director of documentaries and commercials. Last year I made 'The Men Who Jump off Buildings' for Channel 4- about a couple of bandit base jumpers.



I love my job; it's fun and well paid. I studied anthropology because I'd always been fascinated by other countries and had an enquiring mind.

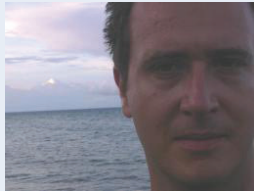
The three years doing a Social Anthropology degree were great. It taught me to think about things differently and laterally. This has proved invaluable in generating ideas and approaches in my film making career.

## PROFILE: KEIR MARTIN

Studying Anthropology at Manchester was one of the biggest, and best, decisions that I made in my life.

What it gave me was a new way of looking at the world I live in, that I still

find makes life more interesting twenty years later. As a result, I have continued to study and work as an anthropologist at the department in the years since. I still get an immense satisfaction from continuing to develop the knowledge that I gained as undergraduate student and in sharing that with new students in my current role as a lecturer in the department.







### **PROFILE: ANNIE BROADBENT**

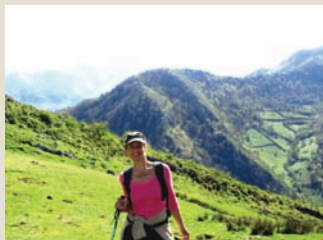
I couldn't believe it was considered to be a 'lesson' when I went to my first anthropology lecture at Manchester University. To me it seemed to be a really enjoyable debate about things I find fascinating, one that I might ordinarily have with friends at dinner. The difference was that I was being encouraged to think in ways I hadn't thought possible. Anthropology is a truly unique subject and one I think every individual should have to at least take one module in.

It broadens your mind and deepens your understanding about human nature, society and cultural differences in a way that no other subject does... and that is priceless teaching, especially now more than ever. Having worked for a children's communication charity for 2 years, I have now set up my own social enterprise which helps 18-30 year olds start and deliver their own independent projects and enterprises. We aim to inspire and encourage young people to believe in their abilities and take ownership over their skill development and career.

My studies of anthropology have never stopped being useful. Having a greater understanding of just how diverse the world is and how impactful each culture can be on an individual, benefits and deepens every interaction and encounter I have with individuals, organisations, and social communities. It makes me excited about the differences and gives me an eagerness to learn and travel that never seems to cease.

## **PROFILE: KATE GOAD**

I graduated from Manchester University in 1997 after 3 fantastic years studying Social Anthropology. After spending a year travelling and working in Australasia



I returned to the UK and completed my PGSE, going on to teach adults with learning disabilities in adult education. I then went on to set up the Learning Support Department at Lancaster Adult College and worked as an advisor in Equality of Opportunity across Lancashire.

My love of travel then took me in a different direction altogether when I packed my bags and left for Spain to walk the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage route from Pamplona to Santiago de Compostela. I have since set up home in the Picos de Europa mountains in Asturias, northern Spain from where I run my business, Andaspain Walking Adventures, guiding groups on the Camino.

Whilst I don't work as an anthropologist, my experience at Manchester opened my eyes to different perspectives, ways of life and world views. It enabled me to imagine more possibilities for my life than I had coming from a working class background and state school education in Lancashire. I would recommend it to anyone who is truly interested in people and in broadening their perspectives on life.

## PROFILE: JOE HARRISON

A decade on I recognize that my degree in Social Anthropology has been of critical importance not only to how my career has developed, but also how I have developed personally; morally and politically.

Professionally I began as a musician and community music workshop facilitator (partly inspired by my 3<sup>rd</sup> year dissertation which looked at how Asian Dub Foundation used community arts to undergo social change). Having done a degree in Social Anthropology I inevitably became more interested in the social and organizational structures surrounding the work. Now most of my work is in education where I work with teachers and schools to develop the role creativity in learning. Anthropology helped me to develop a non-judgmental approach to understanding and working with diversity.

My three years studying Anthropology were spent challenging from every angle what it meant to want 'equality'; is 'charity' always charitable?; what is 'moral' in such a diverse world? Essentially, for me it provided an opportunity to really interrogate how I believe we should live and act towards people. Consequently I *hope* it's given me a deep-rooted basis for kindness.



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Social Anthropology Discipline Area,  
please visit our website:**

[www.socialsciences.manchester.ac.uk/  
disciplines/socialanthropology](http://www.socialsciences.manchester.ac.uk/disciplines/socialanthropology)

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