

# ***Courses and Curricula***

---

---

## **MA in the Study of Mysticism and Religious Experience University of Kent at Canterbury UK**

A new MA course commenced this semester. It is taught by members of the Theology & Religious Studies Department, with contributions from teachers in other departments. The course is unusual in its approach, offering an experience of study intermediate between the tightly structured program of a traditionally taught MA and the completely independent mode of study appropriate to a research degree.

The theme of mysticism and religious experience, while centred in the broad field of religious studies, is one that also receives attention in philosophy, psychology, parapsychology, anthropology, sociology, classics, history, literature, linguistics, medicine, psychiatry and psychoanalytic studies. Graduate student from a diversity of areas are invited to apply.

Student may take the course on a full-time basis (one year) or on a part-time basis over two years.

The MA comprises a double-module core course in Methods and Theories in the study of religious experience which in

first term considers an introduction to the textual and methodological basis of the critical study of mysticism and religious experience, both historically within the traditions and comparatively between them. In second term a review of the theoretical and philosophical issues as discussed in influential studies of the subject is undertaken.

Two single-module supervised reading courses must be selected from the twelve offered. The modules range widely across traditions and divers focuses on mysticism. A dissertation of 12-15000 words is submitted at the end of the course and student are supported during their dissertation by a research seminar where they are encouraged to discuss issues and problems arising in their work.

For further information contact:

Dr Peter Moore, Darwin College, The University of Kent, Canterbury, Kent CT2 7NY, UK

Tel: 0011 44 227 764000 x3675

Fax: 0011 44 227 475470

email: [pgm@ukc.ac.uk](mailto:pgm@ukc.ac.uk)

## **MSc in Sociology of New Religious Movements The London School of Economics**

Starting September 1994, students with a good first degree will have the opportunity of specialising in the study of new religious movements at graduate level. The Masters course consists of four units:

1. The Sociology of New Religious Movements
2. Methods of Sociological Study
3. An essay of not more than 10,000 words on an approved topic
4. The Sociology of Religion or one other option from the range offered in the general MSc program.

The course will include group field trips to at least six different NRMs and student will be expected to carry out some supervised participant observation.

Students will have access to the books and other literature, videos, and non-confi-

dential files of INFORM (the Information Network Focus on Religious Movements) which houses at the LSE one of the world's most comprehensive resources with data on over 1000 movements.

The Course is coordinated by Professor Eileen Barker and draws on outside speakers with relevant expertise - including scholars such as Jim Beckford, Bryan Wilson, Robert Towler, J Gordon Melton, clergy, lawyers, and counsellors - and/or experience - including relatives and exmembers.

For further information contact:

Professor Eileen Barker, Department of Sociology, London School of Economics, Houghton St London WCPA 2AE UK  
Tel: 0011 44 71 955 7259

## **Study in Bioethics Bioethics Research Centre, University of Otago NZ**

The University of Otago Bioethics Centre has a growing cadre of research students at all levels. Graduate qualifications available include (for graduates in a range of relevant disciplines) Masters of Health Sciences and Doctor of Philosophy, and (for medical graduates) Master of Medical Science and PhD. The coursework for these degrees usually includes papers in philosophy as preparation for study in bioethics and then the courses *Theories of Biomedical Ethics* and *Clinical Aspects of Biomedical Ethics* but

many other options are possible. The coursework provides the foundation for a substantial thesis which can be theoretical or applied. The thesis may include experimental data or an analysis of literature.

Enquiries to:

Professor Alastair V Campbell  
Director  
Bioethics Research Centre  
Otago University  
PO Box 913, Dunedin, NZ  
Tel: +643-474-7977 x 8121; Fax: +643-474-7601