

School of Social Sciences
and Philosophy
Department of Sociology

MPhil in Race, Ethnicity, Conflict



Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

www.tcd.ie/sociology

Department of Sociology

Trinity College Dublin is Ireland's leading university and is recognised as one of the top universities in the world. Trinity was founded in 1592, and today the university is a cosmopolitan community of students from around the world. Its bustling 47 acre campus, in the heart of Dublin, is the ideal environment for studying, learning, relaxing and living.

There has been a rich tradition of sociological education at Trinity College since the 1960s. The Department is committed to advancing the understanding of society and to igniting the passion of our students through exceptional teaching and research. It has an active research programme and is recognised internationally for its work on ethnicity, conflict, migration and employment.

MPhil in Race, Ethnicity and Conflict

The MPhil in Race, Ethnicity, Conflict began in 1997, with many students graduating to our equally successful Ph.D. programme.

This one-year full-time postgraduate course combines a focus on race-critical theory, population movement, conflict and resistance. Specifically, we critically examine the techniques used by states and international agencies to manage peoples and conflict, their social and cultural impact and the responses they elicit. It applies race-critical, cultural and postcolonial theories to racialization, gender, migration and nomadism, conflict and peace-making. It is designed for people who work or wish to work in any of these fields, and/or who are thinking of Ph.D. research.

The emphasis is on small group teaching and one-to-one support in the preparation of your research-based dissertation.

Our graduates work in policy, research, national and international NGOs in Ireland and beyond.

Our Approach

Learn about the role of race and ethnicity in conflict, peace-making and population movement as a valued member of a friendly, ethnically diverse intellectual community with links to a host of national and international academic and civil society organisations involved in race critical theory, critical peace studies, anti-racism, international solidarity, migrant support, Traveller rights and nomadism.

Course Structure and Assessment

The focus is on Ireland, Europe (including the Balkans), the US and the Middle East with all classes consisting of lecturing input, student participation and formal and informal presentations. Modules are assessed by individual essays or written group presentations and students are encouraged to incorporate their specific interests into course work and research. The course is structured as follows:

- Three core taught modules in Race and Ethnicity: Theoretical Concepts, Research Methods and Colonialism, Conflict and Liberal Intervention.
- Optional modules selected from topics such as: International Human Rights Law; Gender, War and Peace; Race, Ethnicity and Social Policy; Conflict Zones: Case Studies; Race, Ethnicity and Education in Europe and North America; Labour, Migration, Conflict; United Nations and Conflict Resolution; Rethinking European Citizenship and Contemporary Sources of Conflict. Please note that the emphasis can vary from year to year.
- A 20,000 word dissertation which you research and write with the one-to-one support from an expert in your chosen field.

“ Having professionally experienced the vast challenges of international conflict in the Middle East, this program, at a world class institution, provided me, with a focused yet comprehensive foundation of the theoretical frameworks that underpin social structures, institutions, governments and societal norms.”

Munir Al Akari
CLASS OF 2015

“ The mix of backgrounds and perspectives among the lecturers was invigorating and gave me a solid foundation for my work, both in terms of analytical and productive skills and in understanding the dynamics of issues related to gender, racial and conflict theory.”

Kristin Einarsdóttir
CLASS OF 2014

“ I find myself applying the skills gained from the MPhil on a daily basis, and I now navigate the field of human rights research fully confident in myself as a researcher and the expert knowledge that that I have been given through this programme.”

Michelle Carpenter
CLASS OF 2012

Career Opportunities

Trinity graduates are extremely well regarded worldwide. According to recent figures, 93% of MPhil graduates are either in employment, internships or in further study. More specifically our graduates go on to do useful and rewarding work in the legal profession, advocacy, social research, teaching, journalism, public service and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The following are just a few examples of the diverse organisations where MPhil graduates work:



Admission Requirements

We welcome applications from students who have achieved at least an upper second class honours degree or equivalent, preferably with a social science component. GPAs of at least 3.2 out of 4, or equivalent, are expected from international applicants.

Consideration will also be given to applicants with other relevant qualifications, work experience, publications and positive academic references.

All applicants whose first language is not English and who have not been educated through the medium of English will need to present evidence of English language competency.

How to Apply

If you are interested in applying for this programme please apply online at: www.tcd.ie/courses

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