



Knowledge, Power and Politics in Education

Course information:

Knowledge, power and politics rest at the heart of education. Recognising that education takes a wide variety of forms and is subject to different, often competing agendas across the globe, the MPhil in Knowledge, Power and Politics in Education explores fundamental questions relating to: the roles of education in societies; transnational debates about the nature of knowledge formation and its circulation; and the consequences for social justice.

The Knowledge, Power and Politics in Education course is taught through four modules:

Module 1: *Official Knowledge, Governing and Education*

How are education systems around the world governed, through what means (strategic, spatial, temporal) and with what consequences for the distribution of opportunities and resources? This module explores the historic and changing relationship between education and the state and how governing through both official knowledge and the hidden curriculum have profound implications for the production of social relations, including gendered, racial, ethnic, religious and class identities, in education.

Module 2: *Knowledge, Place and Communities*

This module examines changing spatial arrangements as they relate to education in different nations and spaces of the world, with a focus on the potential and injustices of urbanisation, urban processes and city making. We bring together social analysis and creative research methods to critically examine the many aspects of cities (e.g. global, city states, neighbourhoods, edge cities, mega cities, gated communities, townships) and the ways in which education is understood within them.

Module 3: *Knowledge, Movements and Borders*

This module focuses on the interaction between social and spatial motion in modern societies and knowledge, exploring different types of politics of movement, including social mobility, migration and the role of markets in enabling movements. Studies from a broad range of different countries will provide an understanding of how power, politics of knowledge and social struggles inform the

relationship between education and social/spatial mobility, with attention to the interactions between gender, race, ethnicity and class.

Module 4: *Knowledge, Peace and Justice*

How can we understand the potential of education to contribute to peace and (social/gender/racial/transitional) justice? This module explores the diversity of conceptualisations of peace and varied interpretations of conflict and violence experienced in different forms across the globe. We examine the roles and contributions of education policies, practices, educators and learners in diverse contexts, drawing on examples of transformative practice in and beyond education that offer possibilities for approaching peace with justice.