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University of Sussex

Sussex Asia Centre



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Global Studies

www.sussex.ac.uk/globalstudies

Sussex Asia Centre

The Sussex Asia Centre is a focal point for over 100 staff and students working on Asia across the campus. It provides a hub for cutting-edge scholarship on Asia, and runs a lively programme of events, including lectures by outside speakers, panel discussions on contemporary issues and developments, and postgraduate workshops.

Sussex Asia Centre also acts as a resource centre containing a wide array of knowledge and skills, and with a broad network of contacts connecting people and institutions with expertise on Asia.

Sussex has a historic reputation for its research and engagement with Asia. Sussex Asia builds on this critical mass of scholars and students working on Asia in Sussex. It seeks to act as hub for Asia-related work taking place across the campus and to develop and influence wider research agendas within and beyond the University.

Sussex Asia expertise criss-crosses a distinctive range of thematic concerns:

- Changing cultures
- Resources, environment, health and science
- Critical study of policy and policy processes
- Asia and its regions: growth, inclusion and inequality
- Asia and Europe: comparisons, connections, circulations.

Sussex Asia promotes an integrated and dynamic approach to studying and understanding Asia. While conventional within the UK to separate 'South' from 'Central' and 'East' Asia, at Sussex, our emphasis is on connections, circulations and comparisons across Asia. Sussex Asia aims to promote and contribute to the understanding of Asia as a connected, diverse and dynamic world region.

Through its Policy and Impact Advisory Board the Centre is also well connected to media, government and businesses, meaning it is uniquely positioned to provide accessible information resources about Asia, such as commentary on

current affairs, events and lectures on matters of contemporary importance, and policy briefing documents.

Alongside the Sussex Africa Centre, the Sussex Asia Centre is a new initiative that builds on Sussex's long-standing tradition of area studies expertise that is a legacy of AFRAS (African and Asian Studies). AFRAS was founded in 1964, and acted as one of the UK's foremost hubs of African and Asian scholarship and teaching. It developed in close communication with the University's Institute of Development Studies (IDS), gaining a reputation for critical, creative, activist research.



Research Themes

AFRAS epitomised Sussex's reputation for pushing the boundaries of knowledge by crossing conventional academic divisions and transcending disciplinary borders. It stood for creative, independent scholarship, and practical engagement.

Sussex Asia Centre takes forward this tradition in new ways:

Cutting edge interdisciplinarity

Sussex Asia Centre brings together not only the usual range of social science and humanities expertise, but combines these with scientists and legal specialists working on climate change, energy and agricultural futures. It draws on the wealth of Asia expertise in the Schools of Education & Social Work, History, Art History & Philosophy, Media, Film & Music, the Institute of Development Studies, and SPRU.

Transnational networks and circulations

The Asia Centre's research and interests challenge the conventional boundaries of area studies and bring recognition to the significance of transregional connections, circulations, and networks across Asian contexts. Staff and students have a tradition of engaging not only in settings across Asia, but also with Asia's diasporas.

Critical policy development

Sussex Asia Centre maintains the University's pioneering reputation for rigorous, independent, engaged, critical scholarship. The approach to policy hinges on making critical and focused contribution to a wide range of policy fields ranging from those relating to the environment, food and nutrition, health and science, conflict, and migration.

