

# Global South Asia

- Spring Term 2026/27
- This module introduces students to one of the world most complex and globally connected region: South Asia. You'll use an anthropological lens to explore the processes of social, economic and political transformation currently animating everyday life across South Asian countries including India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan and their diasporas.
- Convened by Professor Magnus Marsde with lectures and input from Dr Ali Shair, Dr Syeda Sana Batool and Prof Geert de Neve.



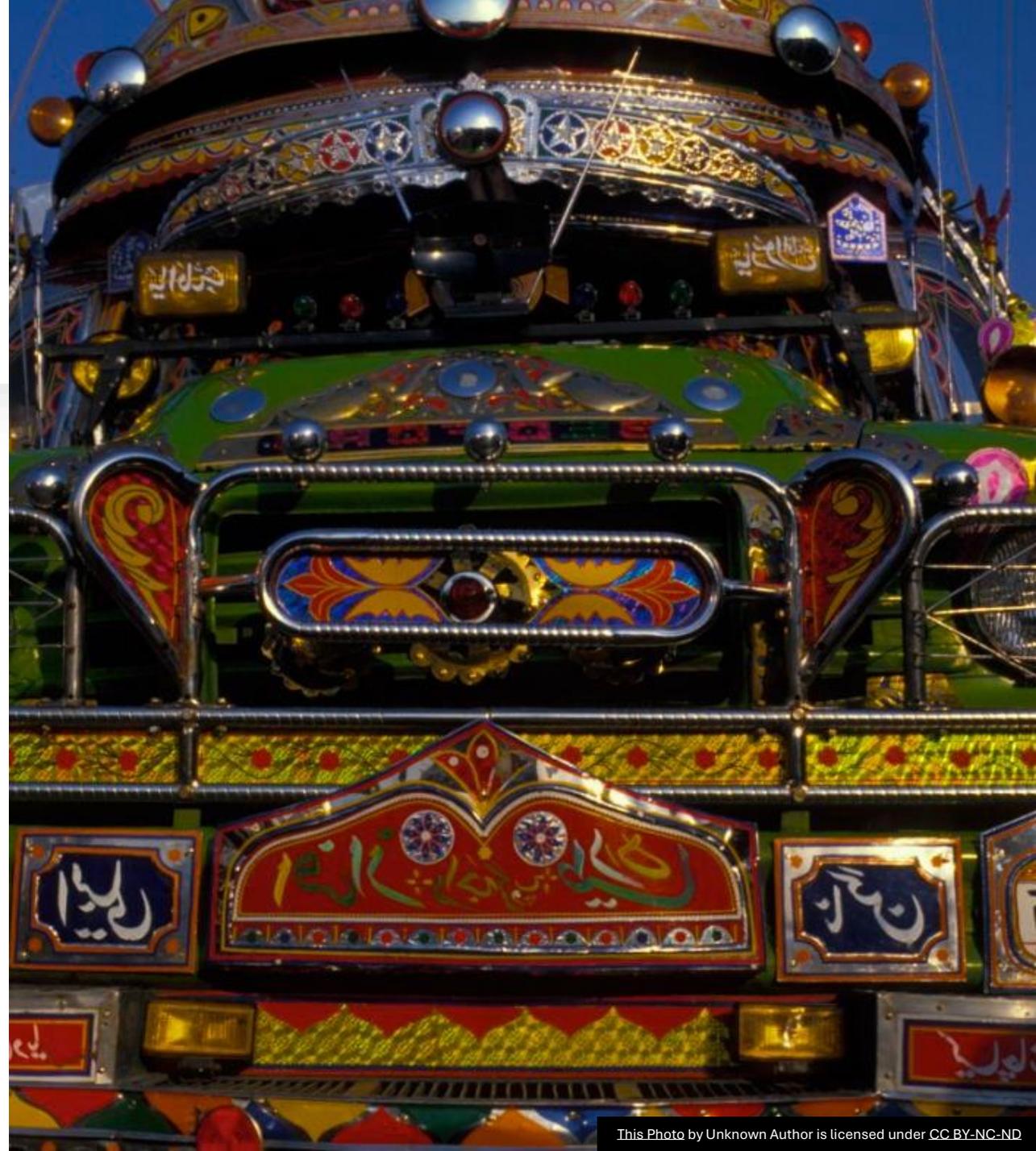
# Global South Asia

- You'll:
- review anthropological theories of South Asian religion and their relevance to understanding the region today
- explore diverse forms of religiosity in the region and its diasporas and the importance to them of music
- look at everyday experiences and media coverage of the India-Pakistan conflict
- compare gender and gender-based violence in India, Pakistan and Afghanistan
- analyse the historical and cultural context of Taliban policies towards women in Afghanistan.
- address the rise of the middle classes in South Asia and the role of consumption in society. You'll also examine the importance of South Asian diasporas to politics in the region, focusing on the case of Imran Khan and Pakistan and assess the role of the state in everyday life. A focus on South Asian diasporas around the world will reveal much about the region's connections to the world.
- Explore how digital technologies are transforming life, conflict and identity in South Asia.



# Topics

- Week 1: The Indian Subcontinent and Beyond: The Anthropology of Global South Asia
- Week 2: News Cultures and Digital Activism: India- Pakistan Conflict and Taliban 'governance' in Afghanistan
- Week 3: Global South Asian Soundscapes: Music and Everyday Religiosity in South Asia and its Diasporas (AS)
- Week 4: T
- he Politics of Identity: 'Communal Violence' and 'Sectarian Conflict' in India and Pakistan Week 5: South Asian Visual Cultures: Bollywood and Beyond
- Week 6: Consolidation Week: Dissertation Writing Workshop
- Week 7: Caste, Social Stratification and Mobilisation in India
- Week 8: From the Silk Road to the West Midlands: Empire, Trade, Diaspora
- Week 9: The South Asian Middle Classes: consumption, family and popularism
- Week 10 One-to-One Tutorials
- Week 11: One-to-One Tutorials



# Teaching

A weekly 3 hour workshop including a lecture and extended class discussion

Student presentations form an important part of the teaching

Two weeks (e.g. weeks 10 & 11) of dedicated advice and guidance of the dissertation. Group discussion on dissertation (week 6)

Visiting experts will enrich class discussions and debate



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# Assessment

- Assessment will be by way of a 7000 word dissertation. Dissertation topics will be chosen by students in discussion with the module convenor.
- The module convenor will encourage the writing of original, creative and critical dissertations that have the potential to become a contribution to the field of study in their own right!
- This is a refreshed module and a unique opportunity to explore and understand the global importance of South Asian cultures and societies on the world stage today.