

Class, Community and Nation through the Pandemic Portal

Convenor & Tutor: Prof Ben Rogaly

Why did the UK vote for Brexit in 2016 and what lay behind the election of Donald Trump as US president the same year? How much have these events chimed with the rise in right-wing nationalist movements and regimes elsewhere (eg in India, continental Europe, the Philippines, Russia and Turkey)? What are their consequences for the direction of human travel through what Arundhati Roy calls the 'pandemic portal, a gateway between one world and the next'? What will be their consequences for the planet in the face of the climate emergency?

This module creates a collective learning environment for the examination of such questions, drawing on resources from across human geography and other social science disciplines and exploring recent political events through the conceptual lenses of class, community and nation. In particular, we will be concerned with the following pair of questions raised by Doreen Massey: What does this place stand for? To whom does this place belong?

We explore the effects of neoliberal economics and class-based inequality on communities, and ways in which racisms have emerged and shifted historically, including through the language and practices of colonialism, and their effects on the present. 'Community' itself will be unpacked to be understood as something always containing tensions and contradictions, for example around unequal land ownership and gender inequality. As well as building up skills of critical analysis, the module will engage with examples of geographies of hope and resistance.

When?	Spring term 2022
Format?	Weekly three hour combination of seminar and lecture material
How assessed?	Two coursework essays (2k + 3k)

Sessions include:

- **Ways of thinking with class, community and nation**
- **Neoliberalism and the COVID-19 pandemic's key workers**
- **Nationed geographies: colonial history and racisms old and new**
- **The city and its others**
- **De-industrialisation and changing communities**
- **Conviviality and working-class cosmopolitanism**
- **Geographies of hope and resistance**