

Class, Community, Nation

Convenor & Tutor: Prof Ben Rogaly (for any queries about the module, email b.rogaly@sussex.ac.uk)

Why have fascist politics been on the rise in the US and many other countries? Why was Donald Trump elected as US president in 2016 and what lay behind the UK's vote for Brexit the same year? How much did these events chime with the rise in right-wing nationalist movements and regimes elsewhere (eg in India, Argentina, Brazil, continental Europe, Israel, 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 an interdisciplinary collective learning environment for the examination of such questions, drawing on resources from across 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? As well as building up skills of critical analysis, the module will engage with practices of hope and resistance.

We explore the abolition movement and its emphasis on making new and better worlds. We analyse the effects of neoliberal economics, racial capitalism and class-based inequalities on communities, and ways in which racisms have emerged and shifted historically, including through the language and practices of colonialism, and their legacies in the present. 'Community' itself will be unpacked as desirable and necessary, yet always containing tensions and contradictions, for example around unequal land ownership and gender inequality.

When?	Spring Term 2025
Format?	Weekly three hour combination of seminar and lecture material
How assessed?	Two coursework essays (2k + 3k)

Sessions include:

- **Geographies of hope and resistance**
- **Abolitionism**
- **Conviviality and working-class cosmopolitanism**
- **Neoliberalism and racial capitalism**
- **Nationed geographies: colonial legacies and racisms old and new**
- **The city and its others**
- **De-industrialisation and changing communities**
- **Ways of thinking with class, community and nation**