

## Goddesses, Demons and Stories in South Asian History: From Early Epics to the Present Day

Visit South Asia, and stories are everywhere. **We focus on why stories are a significant part of South Asia, and why history is often narrated using religious or cosmological terms.**

Through analysis of primary sources like `written and oral stories, plays, songs, rituals, and poetry, you will have the chance to **explore authoritative and countercultural texts; women's songs; folk performances and blockbuster television; sacred spaces; and ideas of sex and sensuality within and across different religious traditions.**



In this unit, **you'll have the opportunity to analyse first-hand a collection of primary sources translated from dozens of languages**, by turns harrowing and comic, mysterious and romantic, sardonic and metaphorical.

This includes Gods dressed as beggars and beasts, wise counsellors and cruel kings, brave women and ethical animals – all of these inhabit our course's fabular world, yet one firmly grounded in university scholarship.

An examination of these issues also opens up our conceptual assumptions about what counts as history and how we study it, which tends to be structured by knowledge of Western polities. It will therefore provide a window to new ways of looking at historical issues. It will also provide you will the chance to **work with different types of material, including primary sources, films, performances, and field trips to see how Indian stories emerge in global Manchester.** This will provide a unique window to new ways of looking at historical issues and their social location in the world.

You'll be taught through a mixture of lectures and seminars. Assessment includes coursework and an exam.

The course also integrates talks, workshops and skills training sessions run by careers consultants, which means you develop a range of skills and build up your experience whilst at university. **This will look great on your CV.**

You'll be taught and supported in your learning by **Dr Ketan Alder, whose research and teaching expertise focuses on histories and religions in South Asia.** Contact me:

[ketan.alder@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:ketan.alder@manchester.ac.uk)