

A background network diagram consisting of numerous nodes (dots) of varying colors (yellow, orange, brown, black) connected by thin lines, creating a complex web of connections. The nodes are distributed across the entire page, with a higher density in the lower-left and upper-right areas.

# PhD Social Anthropology / Visual Anthropology

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ANTHROPOLOGY

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# Welcome and introductions

- Who am I?
- Who are you?



# Your PhD trajectory

- First Year
  - Prep work with your supervisors and through course work.
  - Write research proposal. Due Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 2pm.
  - Clear ethical approval (April to June).
  - Pass viva (June).
- Second Year
  - Fieldwork
- Third Year
  - Write-up
  - GTA (optional)
  - Funding ends after 3 years or 3.5 years, depending on your funder
- Fourth Year
  - Go into submission pending if needed to finish writing up
  - GTA (optional)
- Note: part-time and patchwork ethnography is also an option! Check with funders and me.

# eProg



Progression

Publications

Attendance and Engagement

Training & Development

Progression Form

eThesis Tasks for this PGR

Examination Summary

System Roles

Comments Log

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Internal Assessors

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This form should be completed at an Introductory Planning Meeting between the supervisors and student, where a planning schedule should be developed to incorporate targets and deadlines for the completion of distinct stages of work required by the research degree. The supervisors are required to provide the student with guidance about the nature of the research and the standard expected, the planning of the research degree, literature and sources, attendance at taught courses, where appropriate and about requisite techniques (including arranging for instruction where necessary).

This form should be used to summarise outcomes and agreed action points from the meeting and should be noted jointly by the supervisors and student, and submitted by the supervisors, to keep a record of agreed targets and deadlines.

**Important note:** Please save this form every 10 minutes to avoid losing work due to a system timeout. The form can be saved by clicking 'save' at the bottom of the form.

**Form sections**

**Part A** is to be completed and saved by the student prior to the Introductory Planning Meeting.

**Part B** must be completed during the Introductory Planning Meeting and submitted by the supervisors once the form has been completed in full.

**Part A - To be completed by the student and should be made available to the supervisors before the meeting by clicking save and notify supervisor at the bottom of the form**

**ORCID**

It is a requirement that all researchers create an ORCID (Open Research and Contributor ID) and make it known to the University. ORCID is a non-profit organisation supported by a global community of organisations with interest in research. Your ORCID provides a unique research identifier that distinguishes you from every other researcher and links your professional activities. Registration to ORCID is free and will mean that research output can be tagged and tracked more easily throughout your career. ORCID is now routinely being requested by publishers and funders and it is therefore important that all researchers create an ORCID and make it available to the University.

Please access the [ORCID webpage](#) to create your ORCID ID and connect this to your student record (please note that you must save any work you have done on this form before accessing the ORCID webpage link or you will lose this work).

**1. Tick to confirm that you have created your ORCID and connected it to your student record**

**2. Initial research title**

*Undocumented: Bureaucratic Encounters and Migrant Labour in Southern Italy*

**3. Key objectives and purpose of the research project**

*This research project will investigate the dynamics of undocumented migrant agricultural labour in the region of Calabria, Southern Italy, and how the position of these migrant workers – in terms of their living and working conditions, and within global agricultural supply chains – is sustained by their lack of documentation. Scholars of migration in Italy and elsewhere have highlighted how the country's bureaucratic immigration regime, through inconsistency and incomprehensibility, serves to produce a precarious workforce which is best viewed as a function of statecraft, rather than occurring 'outside' of the state. Building on such theories, this project will explore the ways in which these regimes are negotiated in practice, and what such negotiations and tactics tell us about broader anthropological tropes of agency and bureaucracy. Focusing on labour practices, temporary camps, policies (official and unofficial, local and national), and 'bureaucratic encounters', this project will unpack the production of commodities and workforces, and how the movements of both are sustained by the lack or presence of paperwork.*

*In exploring the situation of migrant agricultural workers in Southern Italy, this research will seek to answer the following questions: What is the role of documentation (or lack thereof) in producing unstable labour forces and stable flows of commodities? What does comparing the two movements of commodities and labour forces tell us about the contradictory nature of bureaucratic regimes? And, what do migrant strategies reveal about assumptions of agency and its relation to record keeping in the anthropological literature, and the broader Foucauldian and Bourdieuan theoretical underpinnings of such assumptions?*

**4. Key targets for the first year**

*Completed literature review.  
Completed methodology section for final thesis.  
Identified research site, and have made inroads with gatekeepers etc.  
Ethical approval for research.*

**5. Any additional comments**

*After discussing my original proposal with my contacts in Italy, I think it unlikely that I will receive ethical approval (and it may be functionally impractical) to conduct my research in Italy, due to the strong organised crime presence in the agricultural sector. I think covid and Brexit have produced some interesting conditions for migration in the UK and I am considering changing my research proposal to be UK based.*

**6. Research training courses (title and codes and if they are assessment or audit only) you are to take in the first year**



## You are in the driver's seat

- In general, except for the first meeting, you submit something written to discuss in each supervisory meeting.
- You tell supervisors what you need (areas you need support on, how often you want to meet, what kind of feedback is most helpful for you, etc.).
- Give supervisors enough time to read your work. Ask them about deadlines for work.
- Frequency of meeting with and feedback from co-supervisors depends on the arrangement. Decide in the first meeting.



# Intellectual community

- PGR Seminar (w/ third years and MAARs) (Sem 1, Mondays 9am – 11am)
- Issues in Ethnographic Research (w/ MAARs) (Sem 1, Tuesdays 11am – 1pm)
  
- Monday seminars (3.15pm – 5pm, ALB boardroom)
  
- Be on campus at least 3 working days a week
- PGR WhatsApp group
- Set up your own informal reading and writing groups!



# Academic support

- Pop-up workshops
- Writing retreats at the John Rylands library (December and June, one day)
- Writing retreat at Gladstone's library in April (2 nights/3 days) – post-field PGRs prioritized
- Trainings, workshops, and other support by the Humanities Doctoral Academy <https://livemanchesterac.sharepoint.com/sites/ResearcherDevelopment/>.
- Other ad-hoc activities



## For more information and help...

- Read the Information Pack for PGRs
- Any admin questions you can ask me or Jackie Boardman, Postgraduate Research Student Experience Administrator in the Humanities Doctoral Academy [jackie.boardman@Manchester.ac.uk](mailto:jackie.boardman@Manchester.ac.uk).
- Doctoral Academy Hub (where you can also find Jackie)
  - Ellen Wilkinson Building, ground floor (to the left as you walk through the front doors).
  - Open 10am – 4pm
  - See also 'Useful Contacts' on the [Doctoral Academy Online Noticeboard](#) on Padlet.