



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

MSc Global Mental Health and Society



Dr Sumeet Jain | Programme Director

EDINBURGH
extraordinary futures await

Introductions

MSc Global Mental Health and Society



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

EDINBURGH
extraordinary futures await

Dr Sumeet Jain

Social dimensions of global mental health

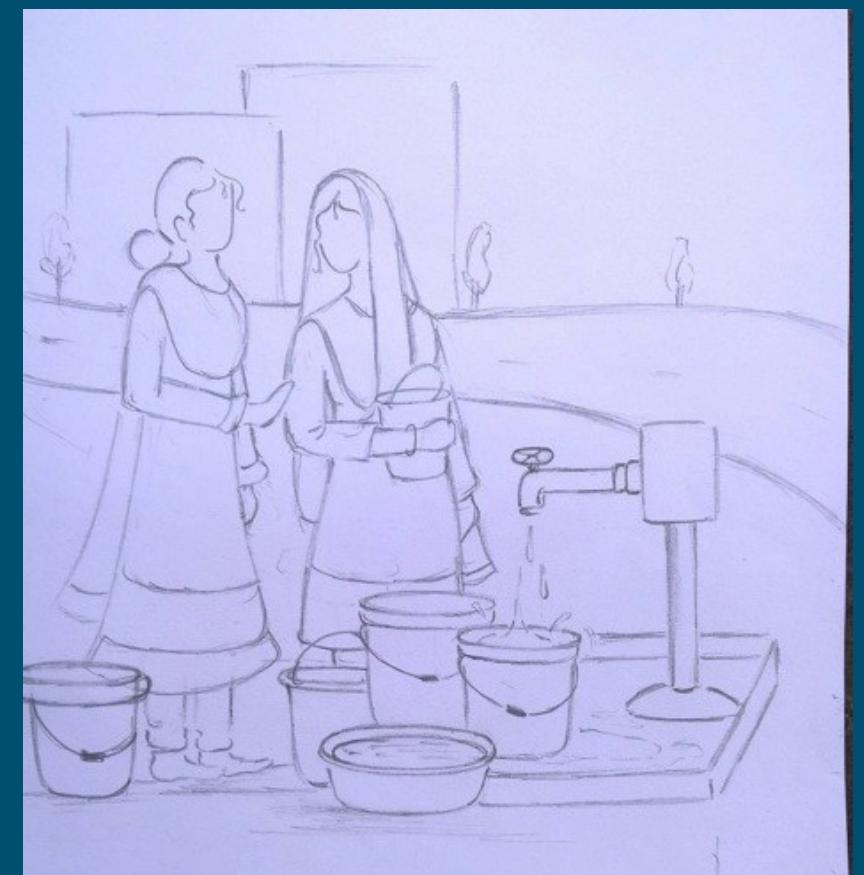
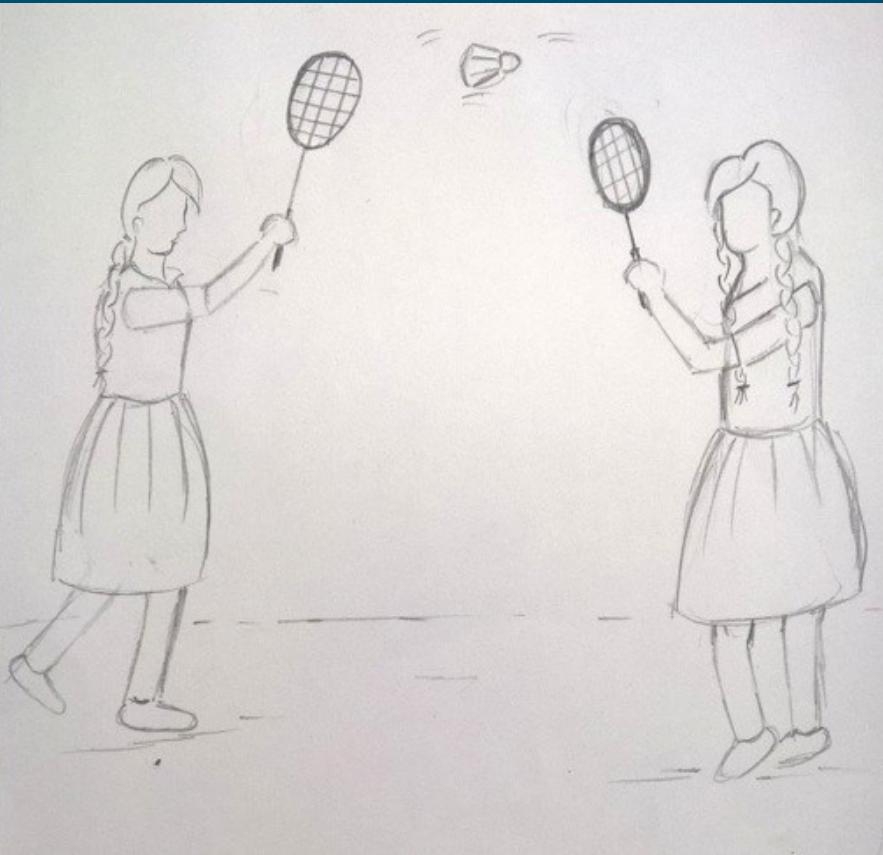
- What does 'recovery' mean in northern India?
- What factors are important to support social inclusion of people with psycho-social disabilities?
- Two short films: shorturl.at/hnqtP

Email: sjain@ed.ac.uk

Twitter: [@SumeetJain_SKB](https://twitter.com/SumeetJain_SKB)



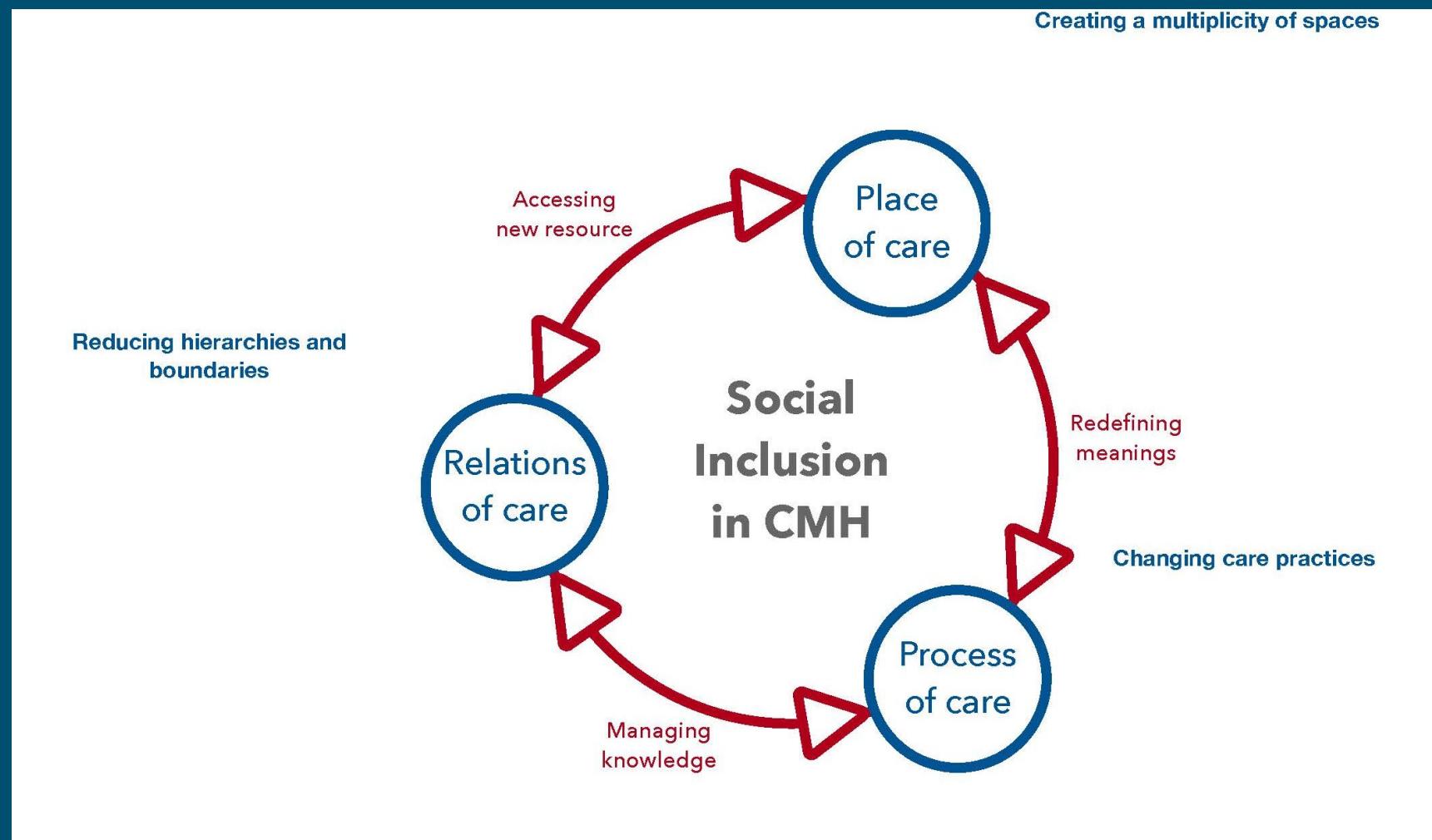
THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH



EDINBURGH
extraordinary futures await

Dr Sumeet Jain

Social innovation in community mental health care in India



- What are innovative practices amongst Indian mental health NGOs?
- How can NGOs be supported to share grassroots knowledge and practices?

Dr Anna Chiumento

Lecturer in Global Mental Health & Society

- Interdisciplinary researcher
- Global Mental Health field for 12+ years: Specialist interest in ethical / normative dimensions to GMH research and care
 - Current focus: ethical dimensions to task-sharing in GMH
 - Methodological & ethical considerations in GMH research
- Experience & interest in:
 - Refugees, asylum seekers, forcibly displaced populations
 - Post-conflict/humanitarian mental health
 - Spanning life-course
- Qualitative applied social sciences / empirical bioethics

E-mail: achiumento@ed.ac.uk

Linked in: linkedin.com/in/anna-chiumento-30ab7037



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

EDINBURGH
extraordinary futures await

The student perspective



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

EDINBURGH
extraordinary futures await

Talk to a current student

- Have you got a question you would like to ask a current student in the School of Social and Political Science?
- Chat with a student ambassador here:
 - www.ed.ac.uk/studying/undergraduate/applicants/talk-to-current-students

The student perspective

- Our team of SPS student writers share their experiences and thoughts on the things that matter to them on our student blog.
- Check out the blog here:
 - blogs.ed.ac.uk/students-at-sps/



Why global mental health?

- How to address ‘social suffering’?
- Social, structural and commercial determinants: mental health problems as inter-linked with poverty, inequality, and wealth.
- Mental health & well-being as development and human rights issues.



Key questions the programme aims to explore

- How are ‘mental health’ and ‘distress’ socially, culturally and politically constructed in different contexts?
- How do we theorize the intersections between social and economic development and mental health?
- What are effective interdisciplinary approaches to addressing the mental health / development interface?
- How can interdisciplinary and interprofessional approaches improve our understanding and practice of mental health in a global context?



Key aims of the programme

- Provide students with the tools for conceptual, methodological, and practice innovation in global mental health.
- Support an intellectual space for critically engaging with current research and practice to create transformative possibilities in global mental health.



Global Mental Health research @ Edinburgh

- Community mental health
- Maternal mental health
- Ethical dimensions of global mental health (how to achieve values of equity, justice, care)
- Gender and relationships
- Trauma
- Migration (seeking asylum, gaining refugee status) and mental health
- Stigma and mental health
- Child and adolescent mental health
- Globalisation of pharmaceuticals
- Intergenerational transmission of violence
- Psychological interventions
- Social interventions
- Ethnographic and participatory methods
- Suicide Cultures research group
- Child and Youth Studies research group



Studying Global Mental Health and Society at the University of Edinburgh

- Flexible and cutting edge programme in one of the oldest and most international universities
- A critical inter-disciplinary approach to global mental health
- Affiliated across three subject areas: Social Work, Edinburgh Centre for Medical Anthropology, and Clinical Psychology/Nursing Studies



Programme Structure



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

EDINBURGH
extraordinary futures await

Programme Structure

- One-year full-time.
- 180 credits, comprised of:
 - 3 x 20-credit required core courses
 - 3 x 20-credit optional courses
 - A 60-credit dissertation course



Core compulsory courses

- Critical approaches to Global Mental Health and Social Change (semester 1)
- Culture and Mental Health in a Global Perspective (semester 2)
- Inter-disciplinary approaches to global mental health: practice, policy and research (semester 2)
- Dissertation (MSc) (full year)

See programme information available [here](#)



Critical approaches to Global Mental Health and Social Change

- On completion of this course, the student will be able to:
- Develop critical understanding of the historically and culturally contextualized nature of 'mental health', 'well-being' and related concepts.
- Critically engage with current policy and academic debates on approaches to addressing global mental health, well-being and social change.
- Demonstrate conceptual understandings of how cultural and social factors shape mental health and well-being in the 'global south'.
- Apply knowledge to critically analyse innovative policies and practice that address mental health, well-being and social change in the 'global south'



Culture and Mental Health in a Global Perspective



Image credit: Aaditya Arora via Pexels

- By the end of this course you will be able to:
 - Demonstrate conceptual understandings of the historically and culturally contextualized nature of 'mental health' and approaches to classifying and categorizing disorder and distress.
 - Critically engage with debates around the interface between race, culture, ethnicity and mental health and illness.
 - Apply conceptual understandings to critically examine policy and practice issues in cross-cultural mental health.

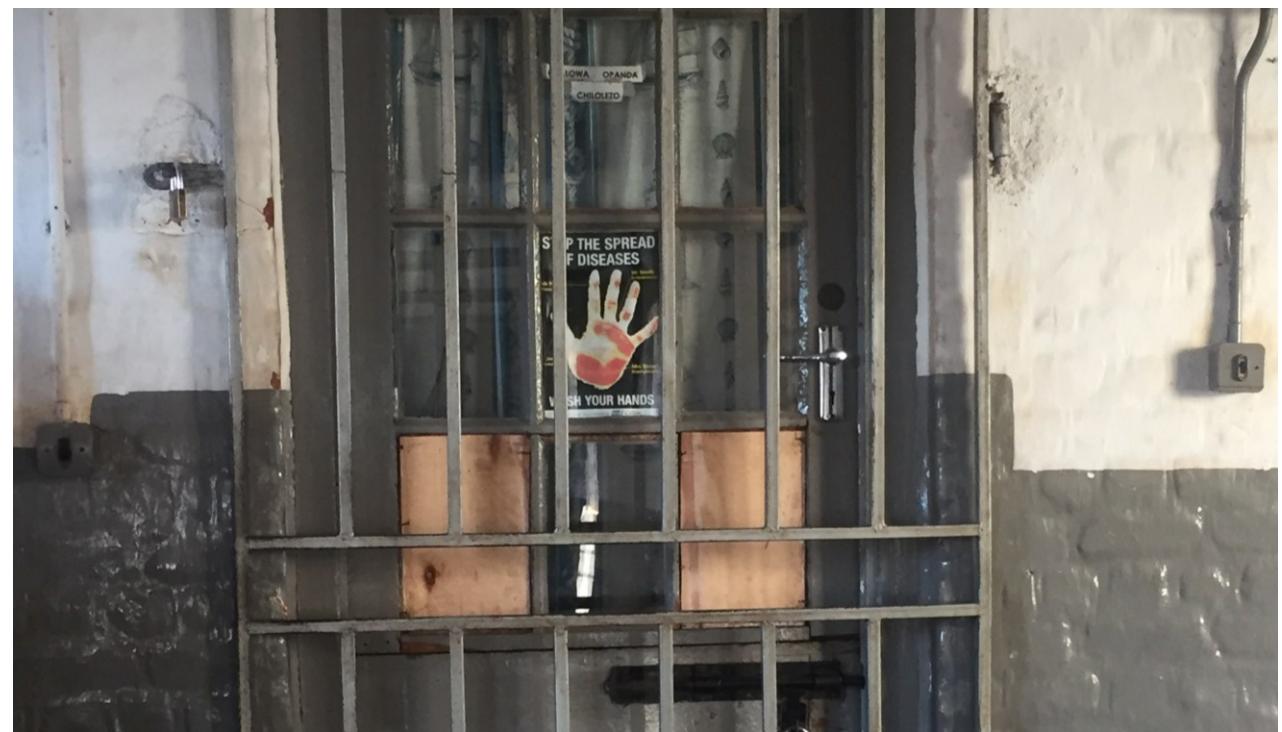


THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

EDINBURGH
extraordinary futures await

Inter-disciplinary approaches to global mental health: Practice, Policy and Research

- Learning Objectives:
 - Reconceptualize key issues in global mental health from multiple academic and professional perspectives, enabling an interdisciplinary understanding of these issues.
 - Develop an awareness of practical applications of interdisciplinary perspectives in global mental health research, policy and practice.
 - Use interdisciplinary perspectives to undertake critical reflection on key research, policy and practice challenges in global mental health
 - Use your knowledge to present an integrated perspective on global mental health to potential audiences.
 - Critically engage with current tensions in this field around inter-disciplinary approaches, as applied to implementation in global mental health.



Optional elective courses

Please consult the [Programme DPT](#) for final available courses

Recommended electives

- Refugees, Health and Humanitarian Action
- Evaluation Research Methods
- Global Perspectives on Child and Adolescent Mental Health

Social Work

- Social Work in Communities
- Working with Self & Others: Skills Theories & Methods

Social Anthropology

- Anthropology of health and illness
- Anthropology of global health

Global Public Health

- Population Health and Health Policy
- Global Politics of Public Health
- Social Determinants of Health and Public Policy
- Health and Human Rights: principles, practice and dilemmas

International Development

- People First: The Anthropology of International Development
- Politics and Theories of International Development

Organizational Studies

- Organising for Social Change

School of Health in Social Sciences

- Homelessness and Inclusion Health
- Body Talk: Embodiment, Physical Dialogue and Authentic Movement
- Between counselling and research 1: approaches, issues and debates
- Between counselling and research 2: qualitative methodologies

Education

- Global Childhoods and Human Rights
- Involving Children and Young People: Research and Participation

Law

- Public health ethics



Global Perspectives on Child and Adolescent Mental Health (PGSP11602)

- 20-credit optional course
- 2 assessments:
 - 1) 20% group presentation, and
 - 2) 80% written assignment
- Learning outcomes: On completion of this course, students will be able to:
 - Critically conceptualise childhood and adolescence in a global context
 - Identify the implications of the tensions around child and adolescent mental health policy and practice
 - Integrate disciplinary perspectives and frameworks to develop critical insight into child and adolescent mental health in a global context



Image credit: Alfonso Scarpa via Pixabay



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

EDINBURGH
extraordinary futures await

Dissertation

- A single piece of independent and in-depth research. The 15,000 word dissertation allows you to focus on a preferred topic from within the field, normally based on a subject you have studied in one of your courses during the programme.
- You are supported to prepare for the dissertation through a taught course delivered September – March (4 sessions per semester) to introduce you to key methods and skills for the dissertation.
- You will be assigned an academic dissertation supervisor who will provide you with support and guidance while you research and write your dissertation.
- The dissertation is written in the summer months (April to August) after the taught courses are successfully completed.



Dissertations examples

- Meaning Making and Transformative Growth Post Psychotic Break
- Understanding the impact burnout and implicit stigma of mental health workers have on suicidal patients respectively
- Echoes of Dyslexia: Analysing the Intersectionality of Social Contexts and Self-Identity in Narratives of Young Students with Dyslexia in the West
- What Does Flourishing Mean to Me? An Arts-Based Participatory Research Study on Young People's Conceptions of Flourishing
- Exploring Embodied Experiences of Ecological Grief: An Analysis of The Politics of Mourning Beyond the Human
- Decolonising Mental Health: Using Two-Eyed Seeing to Weave Indigenous and Western Knowledge Systems to Support Indigenous Health and Wellbeing
- Poetry for Wellbeing: A Poetic Inquiry of Semi-Structured Interviews with Poets, Poetry Workshop Facilitators, and Poetry Project Coordinators in Scotland

MSC Dissertation library is available [here](#)



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

EDINBURGH
extraordinary futures await



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH



Placement-based Dissertations

Placement in Nepal

Placement based Dissertations - examples

- How do people with lived experience of mental health participate in the design, delivery, and evaluation of community mental health in India: A scoping review
- Understanding the operation of the ‘Home based approach of community care’ among the tribal community as adopted by MHAT
- Does the City of Edinburgh have quality green and blue spaces to support mental wellbeing at its University of Edinburgh campuses and the wider City of Edinburgh, in the context of a 15 minute city?
- The psychosocial impact, recovery, and resilience amongst victims of Gender Based Violence in Nepal
- Mental health innovations (Ember)

MSC Dissertation library is available [here](#)



Studying and Learning

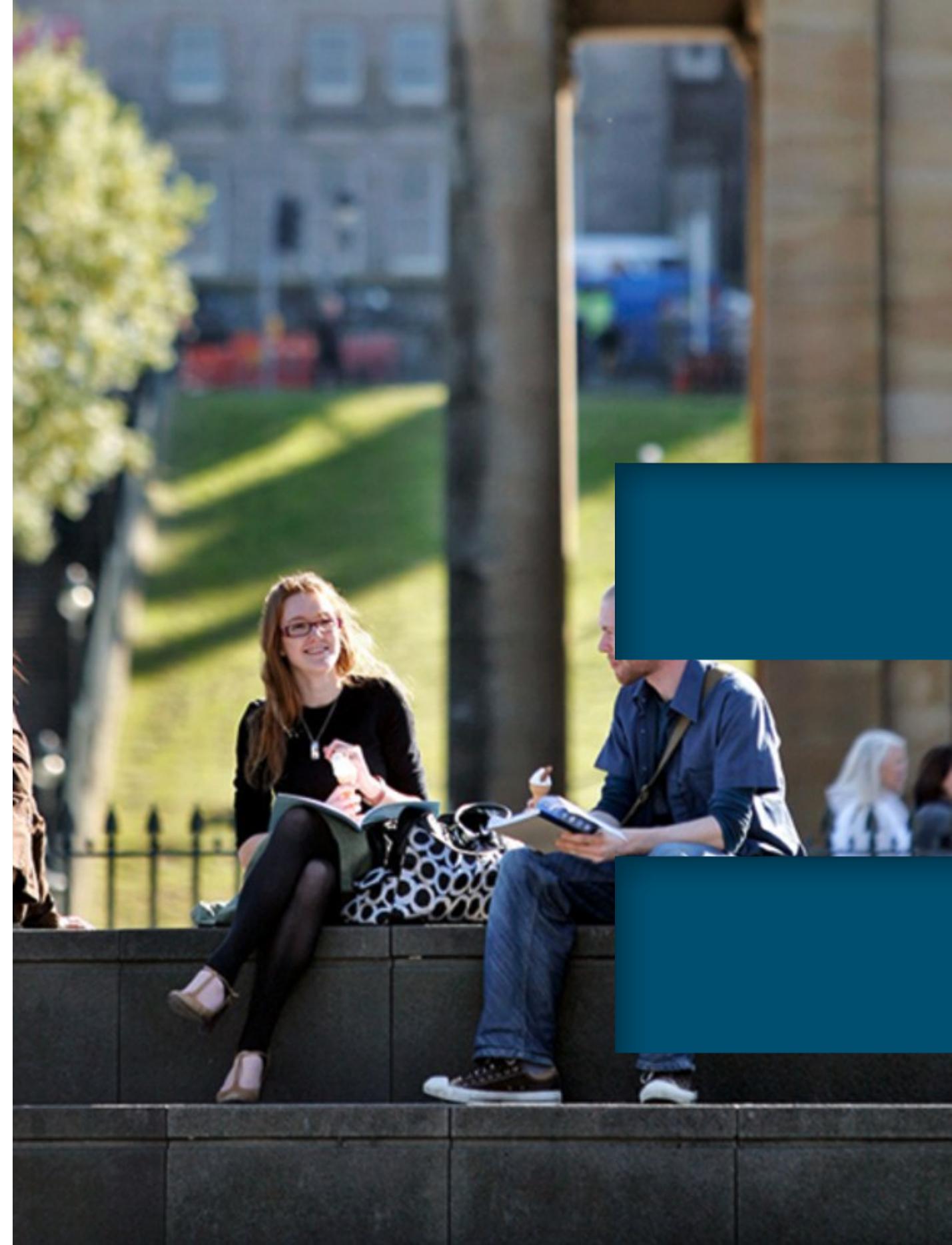


THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

EDINBURGH
extraordinary futures await

How we study & learn

- Lectures
- Seminars
- Case studies and exercises
- Self-led/Group Study
- Independent Research
- Dissertations



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

EDINBURGH
extraordinary futures await

Learning Principles

- Critical Engagement
- Interdisciplinarity
- Interface between theory and practice
- Use of multi-media research-led case studies
- Flipped-classroom approach: supports student autonomy and active engagement in learning processes appropriate to Masters-level studies.



Image credit: Stroryset via Freepik



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

EDINBURGH
extraordinary futures await

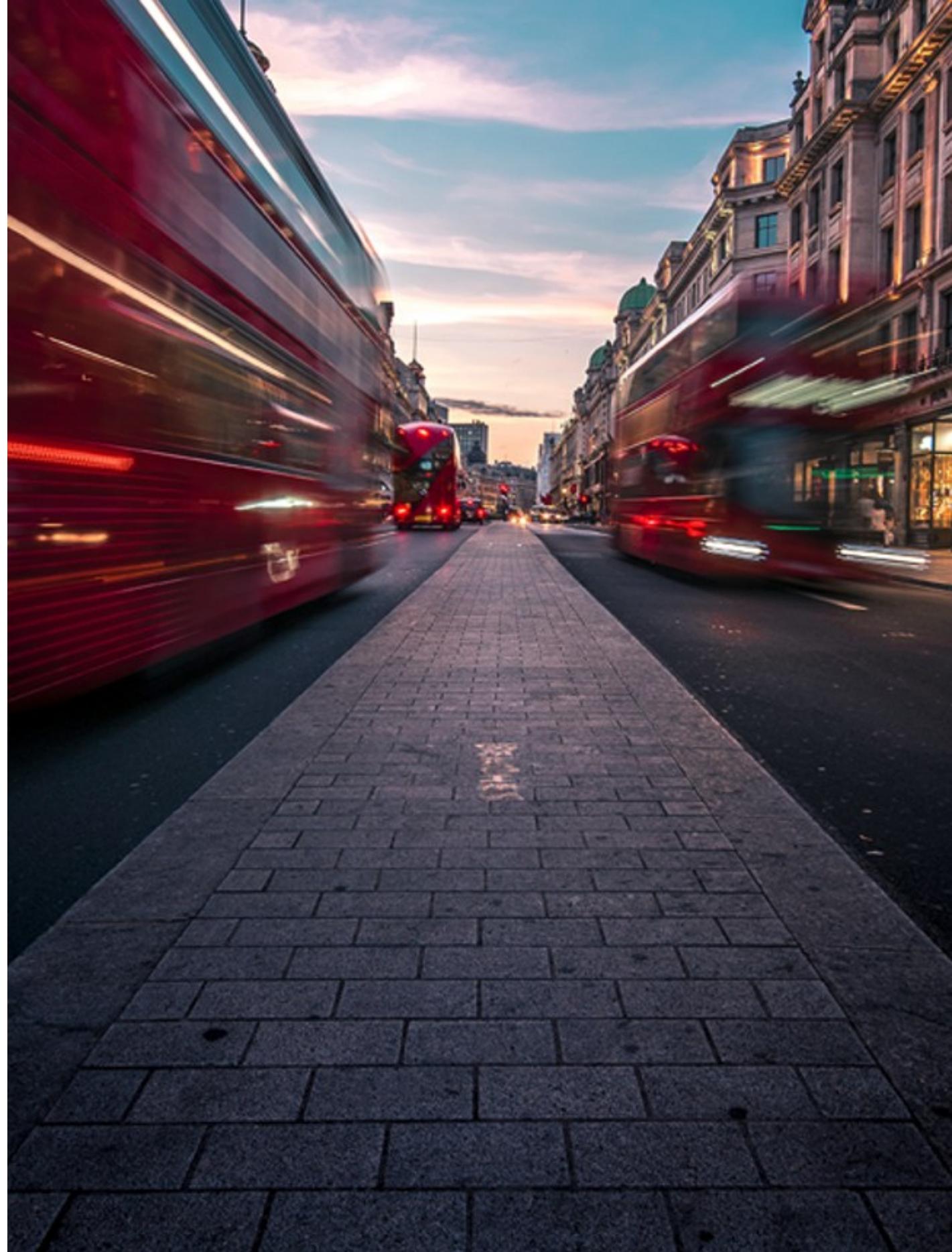
Support for learning and teaching

- Programme Director
- Student Advisor
- Dissertation supervisor
- Student Development office:
<https://www.sps.ed.ac.uk/students/postgraduate/new-students/development-office>
- Institute for Academic Development: <https://www.ed.ac.uk/institute-acadsc-development/postgraduate>
- Peer study groups



Career Prospects

- Growing investment in ‘global mental health’ & mental health at the national level
- Health policy, implementation and research
- UN/intergovernmental forums, National Governments, NGOs, Universities



Life at The University of Edinburgh

- Over 70 Sports clubs and teams
- Competitively-priced student gym membership
- City-wide student discounts
- Student counselling service
- Learning support and disability service
- The Advice Place



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

EDINBURGH
extraordinary futures await

Student Development Office

- Workshops on professional, personal and academic skill building
- 1:1 skills coaching
- Cohort Building activities
- Funding opportunities to support development
- Edinburgh Award and Professional Development Certificates
- School-wide events and activities



Reading suggestions

If you would like to get ahead with some, we would suggest:

- Chiumento A, MacBeth A, Stenhouse R, Segal L, Harper I, Jain S (2024) 'A vision for reinvigorating global mental health. *PLOS Global Public Health*, 4(4): e0003034. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pgph.0003034>
- Hanlon C et al (2025) 'No health without aid and development' *Lancet Global Health*, 13(5). [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X\(25\)00111-1/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X(25)00111-1/fulltext)
- White, R. G., Jain, S., Orr, D. M., & Read, U. M. (Eds.). (2017). *The Palgrave handbook of sociocultural perspectives on global mental health*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Kohrt, B. A., & Mendenhall, E. (Eds.). (2016). *Global mental health: Anthropological perspectives* (Vol. 2). Routledge.





THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

Thank you
Any questions?

Contact details for follow-up questions

We apologise if we did not get through all of your questions in the time allotted for this session. If you have further questions that have not been answered, please contact us:

Admissions: futurestudents@ed.ac.uk

Michelle:

Michelle.Terrell@ed.ac.uk



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

EDINBURGH
extraordinary futures await



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH



See
you
soon!

