

California Institute of Integral Studies, Anthropology and Social Change

Program Information	
Program Name	California Institute of Integral Studies, Anthropology and Social Change
General Description / Special Programs	<p>Anthropology and Social Change is unique among graduate departments in the United States due to its focus on activist anthropology. We believe it is vital for anthropologists to analyze, discuss, and explore the possible; to research alternative institutions; and to collectively reflect and debate the dilemmas of other possible worlds. This collective effort of understanding "real utopias" takes the form of analytic and ethnographic study of existing alternatives in the present: food sovereignty in California, environmental/climate justice models in Latin America, worker cooperatives in Oakland, social centers in Italy, autonomous systems of justice in Guerrero, community gardens in Detroit, self-managed factories in Argentina, "good government" of the Zapatistas, buen vivir (good life) and plurinationalism in indigenous Bolivia, participatory democracy in Kerala, solidarity economics of Mondragon, participatory economics in Winnipeg, pedagogy of the block in African-American communities, alternative environmentalism in Afro-Colombian river regions, marginalized medical practices in South Asia, solidarity unionism in New York City, communal agriculture in Malawi, shack dweller democracy in South Africa, biodiversity in Brazil, restorative justice in Ohio, the digital commons, the independent media, autonomous food systems in Japan—these are only a few examples of the many areas where our students do their scholarly and activist work. When we speak of activist ethnography we refer to a specific research methodology, which rests on the notion of activist research: a reflective and transformative practice that integrates the community of practice at every step of the research process. Activist research is a practice of intellectual production that does not accept conventional distinctions between researcher and research subjects. Rather, the aim of activist research is an integral relationship that transforms both the researcher and the community into active participants in producing knowledge and transforming themselves. As contributors to the book <i>Constituent Imagination</i> suggest, research is an uncertain process wherein the researcher knows "how to start but not how to end," an "open process that discovers new possibilities within the present, a collective wondering and wandering that is always difficult and never resolved in easy answers." We welcome students interested in becoming activists and scholars. Anthropology and Social Change offers an opportunity to develop both theoretical and practical knowledge relevant to careers in education and social justice work. Our graduate students will work with some of the most prominent activist scholars and progressive organizations in San Francisco Bay Area, as well as with core faculty from the department and the Institute. In this process of encounter and co-learning, students and faculty are expected to share scholarly ideas, debates, and practices, as well as practical skills in research, organizing, grant writing, policy analysis, legal and environmental work, and media. We offer courses in media skills (strategic filmmaking, writing and publishing, Internet skills, producing radical radio), organizing skills (legal skills, policy analysis, environmental skills, campaigning, art-making, organizing skills). Together with the activists of the World Social Forum, we believe that "another world is possible." The role of the new social movements, we are reminded, is not to conquer the world, but to make it anew. What, then, is the role and responsibility of anthropology and other social sciences? In a world riddled with so many crises, few things appear to be more relevant than systematic research of counter-hegemonic knowledge and practices. Anthropology, in particular, is well equipped to participate in the "nowtopian" task of constructing social scientific knowledge that looks beyond inequality, hierarchy, and ecological disaster.</p>
Established	
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Program Details

Degrees Offered	Anthropology PhD, MA
Tuition Information	http://www.ciis.edu/Admissions_and_Financial_Aid.html
Highest Degree Offered	PhD
MA/MS Field Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anthropology • Applied Anthropology
MA/ MS Requirements	36 semester units, including activist ethnography, activist skills sequence (media, legal, policy, organizing), and Integrative Seminar with a final portfolio; Community practicum required.
PhD Field Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anthropology • Applied Anthropology
Phd Requirements	36 semester units; Ph.D. specialization seminar; two comprehensive examinations; dissertation proposal, applied Research, and dissertation Writing/Defense. Dissertation must be socially relevant and based on applied research. Admission to the PhD program requires an MA. *Recent MA Graduates of Anthropology and Social Change (within two years) who are accepted into the Anthropology and Social Change PhD program have the option of taking 18 units of required doctoral coursework.
Research Facilities	Our spaces include: Political Laboratory, Atelier of Insurrectionary Imagination, Autonomous Classroom, Guerrilla Workshop, Dialogues and Interrogations.
Support Opportunities	Financial Aid: Loans, work-study, scholarships, assistantships.
Library Resources	Institute Library, facilities for interlibrary loans.
Internships Available	
Internship Required	
Grants Or Funding	Grants for conferences and travel, including through Student Alliance.
Misc Information	The department offers regular online and in-person information sessions. To attend, please contact tmoynihnan@ciis.edu or visit www.ciis.edu/anth
Certs Offered	

Statistical Information

2010-11	PHD Degrees Granted To Females	2
	Number of Male Grad Students	11
	MA/MS Degrees Granted To Males	1
	Number of Female Grad Students	41
	Number of New Grad Students	19
	MA/MS Degrees Granted To Females	8

