

Alumni profiles

Questionnaire

- Name: Jenny Cuffe
 - Nationality: British
 - Course studied at Southampton: MA (part time) Transnational Studies
 - Year of graduation: 2013
 - Current position (job role or title): freelance journalist
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Questions about your experience with us (Maximum of 100 words for each answer)

- What did you enjoy about the course?

Instead of resting on my professional laurels and looking forward to retirement, I wanted a new challenge and Transnational Studies was just the thing. The multi-disciplinary approach - with elements of anthropology, linguistics, sociology and post-colonial studies - allowed me to pursue my own area of interest, which is migration, but offered an intellectual framework and stimulated new ways of thinking. I very much enjoyed the fellowship of students from across the globe and never felt out of place despite the huge age difference. Another real benefit of the course was the relationship with tutors who were accessible, enthusiastic and generous with their time.

- What is Southampton like as a place to study?

The campus is easy to navigate ... the city is culturally diverse ... there's a lot more going on than many students get to see.

- Tell us about your current job?

It's the one I've been doing for the past 30 years and more . As a journalist working in radio I cover both national and international current affairs. I have recently reported for BBC Radio 4 on Islamic fundamentalism in Egypt, the stolen Arab billions locked in British banks, and the threat of terrorism in Europe.

- How did your course help you in your current role?

A journalistic investigation is not dissimilar to an academic one; both rely on thorough research, attention to detail, good interviewing skills and an open-minded approach. I am therefore hoping

that some of my old skills have been refreshed and sharpened. But I have also found out how much more there is to learn ... and that presents a further challenge.

- What advice would you give to a student starting their degree at Southampton?

It's never too late to teach an old dog new tricks.