

Alumni profiles

Questionnaire

- Name: Tom Price
 - Nationality: British
 - Course studied at Southampton: BA Spanish and Portuguese / MA Transnational Studies
 - Year of graduation: 2011
 - Current position (job role or title): Creative Communications Digital Editor at a medium-sized international NGO and freelance documentary storyteller (photography/film/words).
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Questions about your experience with us

(Maximum of 100 words for each answer)

- What did you enjoy about the course?

I chose to study Transnationalism in Southampton largely because of the unique multidisciplinary modern languages department. Having attended, visited and heard about plenty of other higher education institutions, I was very impressed with and excited by the diversity of research in the department and the surprising fusions produced when ethnographers, historians and linguists took working together seriously. The course itself was a true product of this vibrant academic atmosphere and we had a significant amount of freedom to explore quite different avenues under the umbrella of transnationalism. This allowed me to apply the rigorous theories and methodologies that we had been studying to specific problems and contexts that I was genuinely interested in.

- What is Southampton like as a place to study?

Located at a short distance from the town itself, the university has all the benefits of both campus and city-based institutions. There is a vast array of activities on site and the town itself is a growing cultural hub, as well as having its own fascinating social and industrial history.

- Tell us about your current job?

Currently I split my time working in the creative communications department for an international NGO working in the development sector and the rest as a freelance visual documentary-maker. Over the last three years, I have travelled with my work to a variety of places in Europe and beyond to Morocco, Brazil and more recently, South Sudan. Whilst it certainly hasn't made me rich, and has involved a fair amount of struggle and persistence, I have the privilege of working in diverse contexts with people and issues that I really care about.

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

The variety of the course, in some way helped prepare me for the diversity of my work now. Rather than equipping me with obviously marketable, vocational skills, I feel that the course gave me an

intellectual grounding that is vital in the work I do now. As well as sharpening my critical thinking, communication and presentation skills, the course actually got me engaging with material and topics which profoundly influenced my worldview and capacity to think – which, of course, is threaded through all my subsequent choices. I could go on and on – people often struggle to make the link between my work now and my choices of study, but to me it's tangibly present in everything I do.

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

You're in the privileged position of getting to work with some of the finest minds in the country, so make the most of that opportunity. And if you're considering going into the creative sector, think about *making* something that engages with what you're studying and that will be useful to show to prospective employers afterwards. You'll be surprised after you leave about how much time you had to put an interesting project together – and that will really help you stand out.