

I would like to welcome you to the Archaeology and Biological Anthropology Tripos at Sidney Sussex College and the Department of Archaeology, University of Cambridge. The current Tripos may be a recent manifestation, but it comes from a very long history (over 100 years!) as part of the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology and as part of the Human, Social and Political Sciences department and faculty. As part of the wider social sciences, our students have the opportunity to select option papers from several other departments. This diversity is one of the strengths of our Archaeology Tripos and it allows you, as the student, to develop a trajectory that suits your interests as you progress through your three years at Cambridge. Nevertheless, there are also clear pathways for students to follow: archaeology, archaeological sciences, biological anthropology or ancient languages.

As the Part I Director of Studies (DoS) at Sidney Sussex, I would like to welcome you to the community at Sidney Sussex as well. Although the upcoming year is filled with uncertainties regarding teaching and how we will interact, as your DoS it is my job to insure you get the most from your academic career and feel part of our community. This will take various forms – either as face-to-face, virtual meetings or, most likely, as a combination of both – but never fear that I and all my colleagues are working hard to make your first year successful in whatever form it may take. You will make friends within the Tripos and your cohort – particularly because we are a small group and have lots of activities that encourage group participation (even if many may be virtual this year). College life, however, allows students to forge other interests and friendships. It also provides a strong support in a sometimes stressful and intense academic environment. These too will continue and we are working hard to make sure all the support you need will be ready.

In your first year, I will be here to provide you the academic information and guidance needed to help you balance the intense academic needs of lectures, self-directed learning and the supervision regime. As Director of Studies, I will coordinate supervisors who will specialise in particular subjects to help support your course learning. For these supervisions, students tend to prepare short essays on topics set by supervisors and the department. I expect Sidney students to be respectful of the time and energy spent by lecturers and supervisors and to attend all set teaching whether it is in the classroom or organised online. However, we all struggle at times and as your DoS, I should be a first port of call to help liaise with the department and teaching staff to find academic solutions during those times of struggle. Likewise, College provides the welfare support to work in tandem with academic to ensure you have a successful and positive outcome.

In preparation for your arrival, please do look over the departmental pages (<https://www.arch.cam.ac.uk>), especially Part I options. Even in this first year, there is diversity in your option choices and having an idea where your interests rest will help us find the best courses to give you that head start in Part II. It is not mandatory or required to prepare ahead of time for your Part I experience, however, if you wish to prepare a good way is to be aware of current trends in archaeology (like the Cambridge Archaeology unit's work at Must Farm <http://www.mustfarm.com> or keeping up-to-date with current trends in archaeogenetics such as in this - <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-018-03773-6>) - The departmental DoS committee has also just updated its suggested readings, podcasts

and online resources. We have attached a copy to this letter and it can also be found on the webpage listed above.

Once again, we very much hope to welcome you to Sidney Sussex and the Department of Archaeology and Biological Anthropology in October whether it is in person or virtually. The tutorial and admissions office can help you with organisational needs and I look forward to meeting with you and getting started in October.

Kind Regards,
Dr. Sheila Kohring
Part I Director of Studies at Sidney Sussex
Material Culture Hub, Department of Archaeology