



The **UCL SSEES FRINGE** Centre calls for proposals for small grant research projects for the 2021-22 academic year. In keeping with the FRINGE ethos proposals should be broadly interdisciplinary in nature. We particularly welcome projects that:

- embody or reflect upon the conception of **Critical Area Studies** (see below) as fostered at SSEES (The School of Slavonic and East European Studies) and at IAS (the Institute of Advanced Studies)
- engage with the mission and themes of the **FRINGE Centre** (see below)
- foreground critical visions, mappings and perspectives stemming from or rooted in (post-) socialist and/or (de-)colonial worlds

All UCL academic staff and postgraduate research students are encouraged to apply and proposals will be evaluated by a multi-disciplinary committee of colleagues. The scope of projects is open, but can include funding to cover the cost of a **symposium**, a **seminar mini-series**, an **exhibition** or another type of research-rooted event. Given the short timeframe and the complexity of conducting research projects in the era of the Covid-19 pandemic, FRINGE will not at this time support fieldwork visits or overseas travel for UCL members of staff and research students. For examples of projects previously supported by FRINGE, see the [Events](#) section of the FRINGE Centre website.

Please send one-page proposals (.doc or .pdf), including a short statement of purpose, project background, timeline and budget (max. £1,500) to [FRINGE@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:FRINGE@ucl.ac.uk) by **17 December 2021**. Please also include your full name, UCL Department and job title or programme of study. The combined length of the statement of purpose and project background should not exceed 500 words and the whole document (Helvetica or Times New Roman, size 11) should not exceed one page of A4.

Successful applicants will be notified by the end of **January 2022**. Funds should be spent and projects completed by **July 2022**, but there may in some instances be scope to extend the funding until **December 2022**. If you wish to extend your project until December, please provide a clear justification for doing so in your project timeline. Please direct any enquiries to FRINGE Director Dr Michał Murawski: [m.murawski@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:m.murawski@ucl.ac.uk)

**The FRINGE Centre** explores the roles that complexity, ambivalence and immeasurability play in social and cultural phenomena. A cross-disciplinary initiative bringing together scholars from the humanities and social sciences, FRINGE examines how seemingly opposed notions such as centrality and marginality, and clarity and ambiguity, can shift and converge when embedded in everyday practices. Our interest lies in the hidden complexity of all embedded practices, taken-for-granted and otherwise invisible subjects. Illuminating the 'fringe' thus puts the 'centre' in a new light. The FRINGE Centre is an initiative founded by UCL's School of Slavonic and East European Studies (SSEES), which works within the Institute of Advanced Studies (IAS) framework to pursue **Critical Area Studies**. [Learn more about FRINGE](#)

### **Critical Area Studies**

Area Studies has often been understood not simply in contrast but indeed in subordination to the traditional academic disciplines: as mere application to a particular region of the general principles formulated within university disciplines. Critical Area Studies, by contrast, centres on the conviction that knowledge generated from the 'bottom up'—that is, from particular contexts and with specialist understanding of local complexities—does not simply apply but in fact alters and even produces general principles. Further, Critical Area Studies is committed to the idea that interdisciplinary inquiry brings innovative perspectives that the traditional disciplines, or even multi-disciplinary combinations thereof, often overlook.