

# **INTERDISCIPLINARY PHD IN SOCIAL STUDIES**

**Makerere Institute of Social Research**



*January 2013*

**Makerere University**  
Kampala, Uganda



## ***Message from the Director***

The Makerere Institute of Social Research proudly launched its Interdisciplinary PhD in Social Studies in January, 2012. With our first cohort of students well on their way, we are now accepting applications for our second cohort, which will begin in January, 2013.

The PhD programme is the product of long reflection at MISR. It has led us to conclude that there is no shortcut when it comes to conducting research and to training researchers. We have made three strategic choices. First, instead of short courses on methodology, we opted for a full-time, residential, five year, coursework-based doctoral program. Second, instead of African Studies, we decided to affirm our place in the world, not only thinking the world from an African location but laying claim to global resources in pursuit of new knowledge. And, third, instead of a single-issue, fire-fighting program, we created a program that combines historical depth with theoretical reflection and a multi-disciplinary reach.

I welcome you to be a part of this exciting journey.

*Mahmood Mamdani*  
*Director, MISR*

### **About MISR**

The Makerere Institute of Social Research (MISR) was founded as the East African Institute of Social Research in 1948 alongside the Rhodes-Livingstone Institute in Zambia, the Institute of Social and Economic Research in Jamaica, and the West African Institute of Social and Economic Research in Nigeria, all designed to function as research arms of the colonial state. MISR took on its current name following the establishment of Makerere University as an independent public institution in 1971.

Hitherto a standalone research institute, MISR is now committed to combining research with post-graduate education. Renovated intellectually and physically, MISR is today

home to a rich and vibrant intellectual life, with dozens of workshops, conferences, and public events held each year, bringing together scores of scholars from around the world. MISR features expanded seminar and classroom facilities, a library undergoing major renovation, and a growing faculty of top-rank scholars committed to establishing MISR as one of the leading centers for critical and original thought in Africa. The PhD programme is the centerpiece of this intellectual project, and students will be engaged in debates and conducting research that bring together the most distant district archive with the most cutting-edge global transformations. They will be a generation of scholars fully equipped to re-think the world from Africa.



## Structure of the Programme

The five-year MISR programme entails two years of coursework and three years of dissertation research and writing. Four broad themes define the programme's intellectual focus: *Political Studies*, *Political Economy*, *Historical Studies*, and *Cultural Studies*. Students specialize in one field, but take classes across all four. This allows students to be grounded theoretically, while also giving them a broad foundation in historically informed debates in the humanities and social sciences. In addition, there is a set of core courses, with a focus on theory and historiography, required of all students. The courses are taught by MISR faculty, faculty from other Makerere departments, and by preeminent visiting scholars through the MISR Global Scholars Programme.

## The Dissertation

Students spend years three through five taking comprehensive examinations and researching and writing the dissertation.

## Opportunities for Students

In addition to their coursework and dissertation research and writing, MISR PhD students have the opportunity to engage in a variety of activities and projects that contribute to their formation as scholars. MISR hosts a number of projects, such as the ongoing Archives Project or the Kampala Life Stories project, and students participate fully in MISR's frequent conferences, workshops, and seminars. MISR additionally helps provide opportunities for students to spend time at other universities, and enables students to teach undergraduate tutorials in Makerere academic faculties.

## CLASSES

### Core Classes

- Major Debates in the Study of Africa
- Western Political Thought: Plato to Marx
- The History of Economic Theory
- Africa Before Western Hegemony
- Colonialism, Post-Colonialism, and Decolonisation

### Political Studies

- The Modern State and the Colonial Subject
- Human Rights and Politics
- Contemporary Western Social and Political Thought
- Power, Society and Custom Before and After Colonialism

### Political Economy

- International Political Economy
- Late Industrialization
- The Agrarian Question in Modern History
- Statistical Methods

### Historical Studies

- Slavery and Slave Trades
- Gender in History
- Historical Research and Sources in African History
- History and Historicism

### Cultural Studies

- African Literature and the Critical Traditions
- Culture and Theory
- Studies in Contemporary African Popular Arts and Cultures
- Development, Culture & Social Change

## Academic calendar

The 2013 academic year has two semesters:

### Semester 1: January 7 – April 26

Teaching: January 7 – April 19

Exams: April 22 – April 26

### Semester 2: May 13 – August 30

Teaching: May 13 – August 23

Exams: August 26 – August 30

## Fees

The fee structure is as follows:

- Ugandans/East Africans: 4 million Uganda Shillings per semester. East Africa includes: Ethiopia, Eritrea, Sudan, Somalia, Djibouti, Congo, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, Comoros, Mauritius, Madagascar.
- Students from outside East Africa: US\$4,000 per semester.

*Other expenses (room, board, transport, health insurance, books, and incidentals):* approximately US\$ 1,900 per year.

## Scholarships and Financial Aid

Every applicant who is admitted will automatically be considered for financial aid.

## International Students

International students should contact the Director of MISR at [director@misr.mak.ac.ug](mailto:director@misr.mak.ac.ug) for more information on the procedures for acquiring the proper visas.

## Admission Criteria

The MISR Interdisciplinary PhD programme is open to applicants who have earned a B.A. Upper Second or equivalent (students with lower than a B.A. Upper Second must demonstrate evidence of subsequent achievement such as publications or a postgraduate degree). Students who have a Masters or PhD are welcome to apply; however, all students must complete the entire programme, including the two years of coursework, regardless of prior academic qualifications.

## How to Apply

The application form can be downloaded here:

<http://www.misr.mak.ac.ug/uploads/application.pdf>

Complete instructions for interested applicants can be found in the application form.

## Contacts for Further Information

For more information about the MISR PhD programme, or about MISR, please contact the Director of MISR at [director@misr.mak.ac.ug](mailto:director@misr.mak.ac.ug)

Or visit the MISR website at:

<http://www.misr.mak.ac.ug>

## Postal Address

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