

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE  
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

**MPhil in Health, Medicine, and Society**

**Senior Examiner's Report 2017-18**

**Overall results**

The MPhil course—which ran for the first time this year—was taken by 11 students. Six students achieved overall First Class marks (70 or above) and one earned a First Class degree with distinction (75–79). Three candidates achieved overall High Performance marks (65–69) and one a Pass mark (60–64). No students failed the course (0–59).

In line with the departmental agreement to monitor gender-based trends in student performance, we should note the following breakdown of results. There are no particular concerns arising from this year's results, but we should continue monitoring.

| Class                          | Female | Male | Total |
|--------------------------------|--------|------|-------|
| First with distinction (75-79) | 0      | 1    | 1     |
| First (70-74)                  | 5      | 1    | 6     |
| High performance (65-69)       | 1      | 2    | 3     |
| Pass (60-64)                   | 1      | 0    | 1     |
| Total                          | 7      | 4    | 11    |

There are no significant trends that the Senior Examiner has detected on the basis of other demographic or disability categories.

**Prizes**

The Benyamin Habib Prize for the HMS MPhil candidate with the best overall performance in the MPhil essays was awarded to Elliot Reichardt. The Forrester Prize for the HMS MPhil candidate with the best overall performance on the dissertation was also awarded to Elliott Reichardt.

**External examiner**

Dr Andrew Webster served as External Examiner, in his first year of three serving in this role. He described the work of MPhil students as reflecting a good range of themes and topics that was genuinely cross-disciplinary, demonstrating that “the programme has established a sense of a shared curriculum and assessment norms.” He also praised the high quality of students' writing, as well as the feedback they received, noting that there was in general a very good range and mix of assessors and that they offered fair assessment across the course.

## **Recommendations**

1. The HPS Degree Committee has stated that the only subject manager for the MPhil in HMS who should also be permitted to act as an Ordinary Examiner (but not Senior Examiner) for this course is the overall Course Manager, or the person who has responsibility for providing feedback to students. This change has been implemented in the HMS MPhil Examiners' Guidelines and should be kept in mind when choosing Examiners for future years.
2. To continue to hold orientation sessions for new Assessors on an ad-hoc basis and to make sure that new Assessors understand how the HMS MPhil differs from other MPhil courses they may be teaching.

Mary Augusta Brazelton

27 June 2018