



Area Studies Project

A project funded by the LTSN to support teaching and learning in Area Studies.



Hosted by the LTSN Subject Centre for Languages, Linguistics and Area Studies.

www.lang.ltsn.ac.uk/areastudies.aspx

What is the Area Studies Project?

The Area Studies Project is a publicly funded project to improve learning and teaching in Area Studies subjects.

What does Area Studies cover?

“**Area studies** is a generic term applied to the study of the society or societies of a given geographical space. The term covers national areas under titles such as American **studies** or Australian **studies**, and bi-national or multi-national regions, under titles such as African **studies**, Caribbean **studies**, European **studies**, Latin American **studies** and Pacific **studies**. The empirical content of **area studies** programmes therefore varies widely. Programmes in **area studies** are multidisciplinary (grounded in two or more different academic disciplines) and/or interdisciplinary (explicitly integrating two or more disciplines).”

Source: Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (2002) Area Studies Benchmarking statement. Gloucester, QAA

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/crntwork/benchmark/phase2/areastudies.pdf>

The LTSN Centre for Area Studies supports learning and teaching in the following areas:

- Providing support for the support, maintenance and growth of Area Studies programmes in UK universities.
- Literary, media, film, cultural and social studies associated with area studies programmes.
- Language learning and teaching associated with area studies programmes.

We achieve this by:

- Identifying the needs of the academic community.
- Promoting and sharing innovation and good practice with particular regard to curriculum development.
- Providing opportunities for staff development through our workshop, seminar and conference programmes.
- Establishing a framework for effective face-to-face and electronic networking between educators.
- Organising and participating in development projects and other initiatives.
- Providing access to relevant information through our resources collections, website and newsletters.

How to use the Subject Centre:

- Visit our website <http://www.lang.ltsn.ac.uk>
- Come to our workshops, seminars and, conferences
- Read our newsletters. Please contact the Subject Centre to receive your free copy and to sign up for our monthly e-bulletin
- Invite us to visit you. Please contact us if you would like to exchange teaching ideas and discuss issues of concern with colleagues from other institutions in your region.
- Help us to support Area Studies Associations.
- Join the Area Studies Network

For details of any of the above please contact Marie Weaver m.weaver@soton.ac.uk

The Area Studies Project on the Web

We have a wide range of resources on our website at:

<http://www.lang.ltsn.ac.uk/areastudies.aspx>

Our Internet based resource centre includes:

- A downloadable Marketing Area Studies e-pack at <http://www.lang.ltsn.ac.uk/asmarketing.aspx>. The pack can be used as it is or adapted for marketing a particular area studies programme. All you need to do is to download the PowerPoint and Word files.
- Web guide to good practice in the teaching of Area Studies written by practitioners of area studies. <http://www.lang.ltsn.ac.uk/resources/guidecontents.aspx>
- Resources for the marketing of languages- useful for those teaching on area studies programmes in which languages are an important part <http://www.lang.ltsn.ac.uk/languagesbox.aspx>

SUBJECT CENTRE FOR LANGUAGES, LINGUISTIC AND AREA STUDIES

The Subject Centre for Languages, Linguistics and Area Studies is based at the University of Southampton in the School of Modern Languages. We are part of the UK's Learning and Teaching Support Network (LTSN), which comprises 24 Subject Centres and a Generic Centre. Between us we support all disciplines taught in Higher Education. For more information visit <http://www.ltsn.ac.uk>

The work of the Area Studies Project is supported by an advisory group of academics who teach Area Studies subjects across the UK. Professor Dick Ellis of Nottingham Trent University currently chairs this group.

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