

MARKING
80 years
OF **Social Anthropology**
at the University of Edinburgh

hosted by the
Association of Social Anthropologists of the
UK and Commonwealth (ASA)



people
FEST

29 - 31 MAY 2026

56 EVENTS. THREE DAYS.
15 VENUES.



Welcome to ASA PeopleFest 2026.

The Association of Social Anthropologists of the UK and Commonwealth launched PeopleFest in Manchester in 2024 - a festival designed to celebrate the discipline and bring new audiences to anthropological work, beyond the conference room and into the streets, venues and communities of a host city. We are proud and delighted that the ASA has chosen Edinburgh for the festival's second edition.

The reason is a shared one. This year, Social Anthropology at the University of Edinburgh marks its eightieth anniversary. The discipline has been taught and researched here since 1946 - through changing buildings, methods, and questions, and through generations of students, scholars, alumni and friends who have shaped what social anthropology has become at Edinburgh and beyond. PeopleFest is the perfect occasion to open that community out into the city, in good company with colleagues from across the ASA's wider network.

Across three days, fifty-six events will spill out of seminar rooms and into film cinemas, parks, restaurants, bookshops, a pub, a coastal field site, and a Mixed Reality experience of the African diaspora. There are listening walks and zine workshops, films and live podcasts, Mixed Reality and the Firth Lecture, an open mic and an exhibition of photographs of urban aftermath. There are conversations on the future of

higher education, climate ethnography, anthropology in schools, the labour of growing fruit, and why we treat machines like people. There is poetry, and there is plant communication. There is a quilting workshop and a roundtable on food sovereignty. We hope something here surprises you.

The festival is also a chance to ask what social anthropology is for, in this moment - when public life increasingly demands the kinds of careful listening, sustained attention, and historical imagination that the discipline has practised for generations. Eighty years on, we are excited to showcase how vital these skills are in a rapidly changing world.

Whether you are arriving from across the city or across the world, and whether you have spent your life inside the discipline or are arriving for the first time, we are very glad you are here.



Dr Lucy Lowe
Head of Social Anthropology
University of Edinburgh

Welcome from the ASA

The ASA and Social Anthropology at Edinburgh share a birth year. Both were established in 1946 — a moment of post-war reconstruction in which, perhaps surprisingly, a small society of social anthropologists and a university department on George Square were among the things being built. Eighty years later, here we all still are.

ASA PeopleFest is the festival we made when we asked ourselves what a public anthropology might look like — not a conference squeezed into public-facing clothing, but something built differently from the start. The first edition, in Manchester in 2024, told us this was an idea worth continuing. The second, here in Edinburgh, is shaped by everything that experience taught us, and by the particular character of this city and this department.

Anthropology has always understood itself as a discipline of attention — to the small, the easily missed, the patiently observed. PeopleFest extends that attention outward: into film cinemas and bookshops, listening walks and live podcasts, climate fieldwork and zine-making.

The events you'll find in this programme were proposed by anthropologists across the UK and beyond, and they reflect the breadth of what the discipline now does — and the openness with which it does it. Together, they make the case for anthropology as a public good rather than an academic specialism.

We are particularly grateful to the University of Edinburgh's School of Social and Political Science for hosting us, to Dr Lucy Lowe and her colleagues for their warm welcome, and to the many event organisers, volunteers, and ASA staff whose work brought PeopleFest to the city.

We hope you find something here that surprises you, moves you, or makes you think differently about what anthropology is for.



Cris Shore

Co-Chairs

Association of Social Anthropologists of the UK and Commonwealth



Simone Abram

Five threads through three days

PeopleFest gathers fifty-three events at fifteen venues across the city. To help you find your way through, we've grouped events by five conversation strands.

Each event in the listings carries one or two small coloured dots. Follow a colour through the booklet to trace a strand across the weekend.

THE STRANDS

● Climate: 7 events

Living, listening and acting at the edge of ecological crisis.

Travelling Power Station · Climate Catastrophe and the Mundane · Experiments in Ecography

● Methods: 15 events

How we do anthropology now — fieldwork, collaboration, archive, ethics, repair.

Audiovisual Remix · Trauma-Informed Methods · Mapping the Substance of Trace

● Education: 6 events

The discipline's future — in schools, in universities, in working life.

Tomorrow's Anthropologists · Why Anthropology in Schools · Higher Education roundtable

● Sensory & Creative: 18 events

Listening, walking, drawing, sewing, sounding - anthropology beyond the written word.

Sounds Like Edinburgh · Crafting Anthropology · Antidote to the River of Forgetting

● Health and care: 4 events

Bodies, birth, illness, advocacy - the lived experience of being human and being treated.

Co-Designing the Future of Health · Health Activism & Citizenship · Near Birth



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80
1946 - 2026

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Venues at a glance

Code	Venue	Address
CMB	Chrystal Macmillan Building, University of Edinburgh (includes CMB foyer, CMB 1–6 seminar rooms, Practice Suite)	15a George Square, EH8 9LD
VLR	Violet Laidlaw Room (inside CMB)	(within CMB)
EFI	Edinburgh Futures Institute	1 Lauriston Place, EH8 9EF
MLT	Meadows Lecture Theatre	Teviot Place, EH8 9AG
Adam	Adam House Cinema	3 Chambers Street, EH1 1HR
DE	Dynamic Earth	112-116 Holyrood Road, EH8 8AS
ECCI	Edinburgh Climate Change Institute	High School Yards, EH1 1LZ
ESHC	Edinburgh Student Housing Co-operative	34 Wrights Houses Basement, EH10 4HR (access through the big gate to the right of the entrance)
Tills	Tills Bookshop	1 Hope Park Crescent, EH8 9NA
Holy	Holyrood Park	Queen's Drive, EH8 8HG
Palms	Paradise Palms (pub)	41 Lothian Street, EH1 1HB
Wardie	Wardie Bay	92 Lower Granton Road, EH5 1ER
Waverley	The Waverley Bar	3-5 Saint Mary's Street, EH1 1TA
Kalpna	Kalpna restaurant	2-3 St Patrick Square, EH8 9EZ
Lighthouse	Lighthouse Bookshop	43-45 W Nicolson Street, EH8 9DB

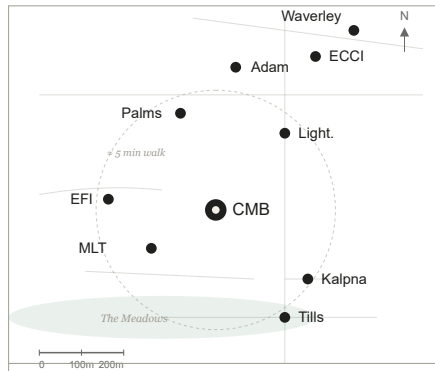


Venues at a glance

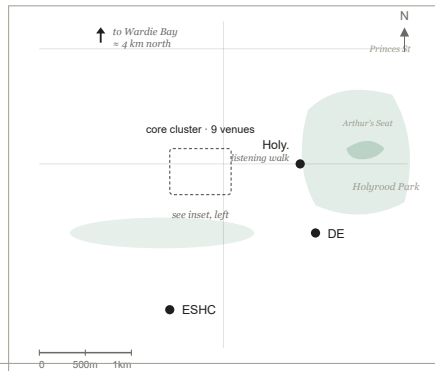
Where it all happens

FIFTEEN VENUES · NINE WITHIN FIVE MINUTES OF CMB

CORE CLUSTER · CMB AND NEIGHBOURS



WIDER CITY · ALL FIFTEEN VENUES



CORE CLUSTER

CMB	Chrystal Macmillan Building 15a George Square · EH8 9LD
MLT	Meadows Lecture Theatre Teviot Place · EH8 9AG
EFI	Edinburgh Futures Institute 1 Lauriston Place · EH3 9EF
Adam	Adam House Cinema 3 Chambers Street · EH1 1HR
Palms	Paradise Palms (pub) 41 Lothian Street · EH1 1HB

ECCI	Climate Change Institute High School Yards · EH1 1LZ
Tills	Tills Bookshop 1 Hope Park Crescent · EH8 9NA
Light.	Lighthouse Bookshop 43-45 W Nicolson Street · EH8 9DB
Kalpna	Kalpna restaurant 2-3 St Patrick Square · EH8 9EZ
Waverley	The Waverley Bar 3-5 St Mary's Street · EH1 1TA

BEYOND CORE

Holy.	Holyrood Park Listening walk · meeting pt TBC
DE	Dynamic Earth 112-116 Holyrood Rd · EH8 8AS
ESHC	Student Housing Co-op 34 Wrights Houses · EH10 4HR
Wardie	Wardie Bay = 4 km north · 20 min by bus

Sunday 09:30 only ·
Lothian Buses 16 or 23

Make sure to check the latest information on events at:
<https://www.theasa.org/conferences/peoplefest2026/programme>



Events at a glance

Friday
29 May

Morning

- Who Is Mao Looking At?
- The Anthropology Podcast Launch Event
- We Meant Well
- Co-Designing the Future of Health
- Audiovisual Remix
- See, Play, Discover (Friday slot)
- Roundtable on Food Sovereignty (drop-in)
- Citizen Social Science for Self-Advocacy
- Speaking in the Time of War
- Co-Created Anthropology (Drag, Disability, MND)
- British Muslim Values

Afternoon

- The Human Library of Gen-Z Anthropology
- Gaza Fixer
- Everyday Anthropology
- Wicked Tales of Man-Eaters from South Asia
- ASA AGM (members only)
- Introducing re:think and the Anthropology Teaching Collection Reimagined
- You Don't Know What You Don't Know, Do You?

Evening

- Firth Lecture: Growing Pains
- Reception
- Animating Anthropology
- Poetic Pathways in Anthropology

Saturday
30 May

Morning

- Crafting Anthropology
- The Travelling Power Station
- See, Play, Discover
- Plant Communication Workshop
- Climate Catastrophe and the Mundane
- Trauma-Informed Anthropology Methodology
- Sounds Like Edinburgh
- Ecotheatre-Home Documentary Film
- Archives in Flux

Afternoon

- Tomorrow's Anthropologists
- Baobab: The Tree of Oblivion
- Why Do We Treat Machines Like People?
- Unveiling Norwich
- New Climate Ethnographies

Evening

- ASA Climate Anthropology Network Social
- Antidote to the River of Forgetting

Sunday
31 May

Morning

- Experiments in Ecography
- The Migration Menu
- Zines will save the world
- See, Play, Discover
- Health Activism and Citizenship
- Report Launch - Bridgebuilding
- What is a Public Secret?
- Bridging the Gap

Afternoon

- Killing the Messenger
- Why Anthropology in Schools Matters
- Mapping the Substance of Trace
- Living in Unprecedented Times
- Higher Education and Academic Capitalism
- Bites of Culture

Evening

- Near Birth
- Fish Out of Water: Ethnography Open Mic



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Friday

29 MAY 2026

Drop-in exhibitions

● The “anthropology teaching collection” re-imagined

10:00–16:00 · CMB foyer · drop-in (all three days; introduction on Friday)

A gathering of ethnographic objects brought to Edinburgh by anthropologists working and studying at the University of Edinburgh from the 1950s to the late 1970s (or possibly 1980s).

Host: John Harries

● The Aftermath

10:00–16:00 · CMB foyer · drop-in (all three days)

Photographic exhibition considering aftermath as a central condition of urban life.

Host: Lucrezia Santilli

● Voicing lived experience

10:00–16:00 · CMB foyer · drop-in (all three days)

An exhibition of anthropology and poetry.

Hosts: Chrisyl Wong-Hang-Sun, Grace H. Zhou

● Who Is Mao Looking At?

10:00–16:00 · CMB 4 · drop-in

Looking with and Looking Back at Mao — An Interactive Exhibition on Gaze, Memory, and History. A visual anthropology installation reflecting on imagery, the gaze, and ideological framing.

Hosts: Taojiazi Hu, Huifei Li

● Killing the messenger

10:00–16:00 · Violet Laidlaw Room · drop-in

An exhibition of all the Palestinian journalists killed during the conflict creates space for understanding the loss of human life, its intrinsic value and worth, and, the loss of truth, reported from Gaza by these journalists. This exhibit also stands as a site of remembrance for those who have been murdered and a site to resist the genocidal narratives that frame these victims as something other.

Host: Lee McNeish

Make sure to check the latest information on events at:
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STRAND KEY

● Climate ● Methods ● Education ● Sensory & Creative ● Health & Care ■ Drop-in



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80
1946 - 2026

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29 MAY 2026

● The Anthropology Podcast Launch Event

10:00–11:00 · CMB 1

Introducing a new podcast for anybody who wants to learn more about what anthropology is, what sorts of questions anthropologists ask, and how they answer them.

Hosts: Olivia Barnett-Naghshineh, Michael Crawley

REGISTER

edin.ac/4trCTiG

● Co-Designing the Future of Health

● 10:00–12:00 · Room 1.60, EFI

An introductory workshop to service design.

Host: Olivia Schneider

REGISTER

edin.ac/4nnfnC8

● Audiovisual Remix

● 10:00–12:30 · Adam House Cinema

Dive into a creative mashup where film essays meet audiovisual remixing for a fresh take on storytelling.

Hosts: Lee Douglas, Aimee Joyce

REGISTER

edin.ac/42HSUGp

● See, Play, Discover

● 10:00–11:00 · Dynamic Earth · drop-in

How is plastic waste impacting coastal communities and natural environments? Come and discover how plastic waste moves through rivers and along coasts, travels long distances, tangles in fishing nets, accumulates on beaches, and finds its way into humans and animals.

Waste generated in one part of the world can contribute to environmental and health challenges in another, just as plastics used here may eventually reach distant shores.

Hosts: Inna Yaneva-Toraman, Duc Nguyen

REGISTER

edin.ac/4neYZTQ

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1946 - 2026

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● Roundtable on Food Sovereignty

11:00–14:00 · CMB 5 · drop-in

This roundtable builds on ideas around food sovereignty, including a film screening of the Inuksiutit: Food Sovereignty in the Arctic project, with films made and/or directed by young Inuit research partners and Inuit co-investigators.

Host: Jan Peter Laurens Loovers

REGISTER

edin.ac/4uDCMS5

● Citizen Social Science for Self-Advocacy

● 10:30–13:00 · CMB Practice Suite

Anthropology By Children/Communities, a practical workshop for those looking to reshape consultation and institutional knowledge-making from the ground up.

Host: Kelly Fagan Robinson

REGISTER

edin.ac/4tsJKbn

● Speaking in the Time of War

10:30–12:00 · Room 1.50, EFI

Scholarly Voice, Moral Responsibility, and Public Engagement.

Hosts: Diego Maria Malara, Mariya Ivancheva

REGISTER

edin.ac/4ng6had

● Co-Created Anthropology

● 11:00–13:15 · Meadows Lecture Theatre

Drag, Disability and Performance. Performance, conversation and reflection on the lived experience of motor neurone disease, drag culture, and disability anthropology — including *Ms MaNDY's Adventures in Wonderland*.

Host: Andrew Irving

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edin.ac/48Ofes7

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Political Science

80
1946 - 2026

Social
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29 MAY 2026

● **British Muslim Values**

11:30–13:00 · CMB 6

Film, Conversation and the Everyday Work of Belonging.

Host: Qudra Goodall

REGISTER

edin.ac/3OR1DCQ

● **The Human Library of Gen-Z Anthropology**

12:30–14:00 · Room 1.60, EFI

Cambridge Social Anthropology students answer your burning anthropology questions.

Hosts: Martha Hancock, Matilde Fulfaro, Nima Babiker, Madeline Edgar — EDU

REGISTER

edin.ac/4cXTghW

● **Gaza Fixer**

13:00–14:30 · Adam House Cinema

A chronicle of survival. Film by George Azar and Mariam Shahin.

Filmmakers: George Azar, Mariam Shahin

REGISTER

edin.ac/42uJFZU

● **Everyday Anthropology**

● 13:30–16:30 · CMB Practice Suite

Practising Anthropology in Your Everyday Life, presented by the University of Edinburgh First-Year PhD Anthropology Cohort.

Hosts: James Fraser, Chrisyl Wong-Hang-Sun

REGISTER

edin.ac/4uF9Adq

ASA AGM

14:00–15:00 · Meadows Lecture Theatre · members only

Annual General Meeting of the Association of Social Anthropologists.

ASA members only

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Political Science

80
1946 - 2026

Social
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Friday

29 MAY 2026

Wicked Tales of Man-Eaters from South Asia

14:30 - 16:00 **Lioness of Leith, 21 Duke Street, EH6 8HH**

Tales of fearsome “man-eaters” recur across South Asia. Blood thirsty human and non-human figures appear in many forms: from tigers and leopards to shapeshifting snakes, alluring women and unscrupulous politicians.

Hosts: Nayanika Mathur, Lotte Hoek

● You Don't Know What You Don't Know, Do You?

15:00-16:30 · **Adam House Cinema**

Radical Archives & Social Movement History — Screening and Discussions.

Hosts: Joel White, Adam Lewis Jacob

● Introducing re:think and the Anthropology Teaching Collection Reimagined

15:30 · **CMB Foyer · Drop in**

A double launch. re:think is the student journal of creative ethnography, edited at Edinburgh - a place for writing that exceeds the conventions of the academic paper. The Anthropology Teaching Collection Reimagined, gathers ethnographic objects brought back by Edinburgh anthropologists between the 1950s and 1980s, and asks what such collections mean now. Two looks at the discipline's forms: one looking forward, one looking back.

Hosts: re:think editors, John Harries

Firth Lecture: Growing Pains

17:00-18:30 · **Meadows Lecture Theatre**

Growing pains: the labour of making plants productive. The 2026 Annual Firth Lecture.

Rebecca Cassidy is William Wyse Professor of Anthropology at Cambridge. Drawing on Timothy Mitchell's framing of “growth” as a key political technology in modern governance, she asks what we might learn from viewing growth through ideas held by pomologists, fruit growers, druggists, herb diggers, and breeders working on genetically engineered super apples. If growth is modelled on nature, what happens when plants stop growing?

Speaker: Rebecca Cassidy (Cambridge)

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edin.ac/4uFXDnL

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edin.ac/4eWBPQn

Friday

29 MAY 2026

Reception Hosted by the ASA

18:30–19:30 · CMB Foyer

Opening reception immediately after the Conference Opening and Firth Lecture. Wine, soft drinks and finger food while mingling with other guests.

● Animating Anthropology

19:00–21:00 · Edinburgh Student Housing Co-operative

How can animation expand the ways we tell anthropological stories? An evening of short animated films followed by Q&A. Doors at 18:30.

Films: Hanina / Homesick; Remembering Nubia; Forms of Care; The Weight of the Heat: A Meditation on Black Aliveness from New Orleans; Nadirah: Coal Woman; Surfacing | Affiorare; Bridging the Gap; Shipibo Glamour; The Boa that Split Us | Uampamēsēn Tsitiaid; Non Axebo

Hosts: Sophie Cowling, Orlando Swan, Zeynep Kaserici, Natalia Christofolletti Barrenha

REGISTER

edin.ac/42WIFhh

● Poetic Pathways in Anthropology

19:00–20:00 · Tills Bookshop

A conversation with poet and anthropologist Dr Nomi Stone, facilitated by Dr Grace H. Zhou, about the many ways creative writing can reshape how anthropology is practised, taught, and shared.

Hosts: Grace H. Zhou, Nomi Stone

REGISTER

edin.ac/4eEcnPm

STRAND KEY

● Climate ● Methods ● Education ● Sensory & Creative ● Health & Care ■ Drop-in

FIELDNOTES · CONTINUED

A SKETCH



a thing you saw however quickly.

Saturday

30 MAY 2026

Drop-ins

● Trading for Insight: A Playful Exercise in Positionality

10:00–16:00 · CMB foyer · drop-in throughout the day

Whether you're an experienced researcher or have no clue yet what "ethnography" means, this exercise is a fun way to engage with one of the discipline's core considerations: self-reflexivity.

Hosts: Olivia Schneider, Jay Lancaster-Symington

Anthropology and Palestinian Heritage

10:30–16:00 · CMB 6 · drop-in (continues Sunday)

"There is a Palestine seeped in colours and textures and meanings thousands of years older than any contemporary violence."

Hosts: Leen Farouki, Lee McNeish

Killing the messenger

10:00–16:00 · Violet Laidlaw Room · drop-in

An exhibition of all the Palestinian journalists killed during the conflict creates space for understanding the loss of human life, its intrinsic value and worth, and, the loss of truth, reported from Gaza by these journalists.

Host: Lee McNeish

● Crafting Anthropology: A Hands-On Workshop

10:00–14:00 · CMB Practice Suite · drop-in

A one-day workshop inviting participants to engage with anthropology through making – sewing, quilting, textile.

Host: Lydia Donohue

● The Travelling Power Station

10:00–16:30 · ECCI Courtyard · drop-in

Come and visit us in the Travelling Power Station, an immersive exhibition, creating energy around energy.

Hosts: Hannah Knox, Itay Noy

Drop-in exhibitions (all weekend, in CMB foyer)

The "anthropology teaching collection" re-imagined (John Harries) · The Aftermath (Lucrezia Santilli) · Voicing lived experience (Chrisyl Wong-Hang-Sun, Grace H. Zhou).

All 10:00–16:00.

See full descriptions under Friday.

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● Climate ● Methods ● Education ● Sensory & Creative ● Health & Care ■ Drop-in



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School of Social & Political Science

80
1946 - 2026

Social
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30 MAY 2026

- **See, Play, Discover**
- **10:00–11:00 · Dynamic Earth · drop-in**

Plastics and coastal communities — see Friday for full description. Sunday includes a longer game demo.

Hosts: Inna Yaneva-Toraman, Duc Nguyen

REGISTER
edin.ac/4neYZTQ

- **Plant Communication Workshop**
- 10:00–10:45 · CMB 4**

Be guided through using different sensorial methods for communicating with plants to connect on a deeper level with nature and yourself.

Hosts: Kelsey Grubbs, Laura Pasetti

REGISTER
edin.ac/4u5pnZ

- **Climate Catastrophe and the Mundane**
- 10:00–12:30 · CMB 1**

How are catastrophe and the mundane interwoven and balanced against each other in the work of addressing the Climate Crisis? Climate Anthropology Network roundtable.

Hosts: Hanna Oosterveen, Mathieu Lamontagne-Cumiford

REGISTER
edin.ac/48TzMsm

- **Who would say trauma-informed anthropology methodology could be this fun?**
- 10:00–13:00 · CMB 2**

Moving the body to learn and live well. A Butoh-inspired methodology workshop.

Hosts: Carolina Borda-Niño-Wildman, Xandra Miguel-Lorenz

REGISTER
edin.ac/49rZWTd

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30 MAY 2026

● Sounds Like Edinburgh

10:00–11:00 · Holyrood Park
Meeting Point: Holyrood Car Park on Queen's Drive

A listening walk through the city and Holyrood Park.
Hosts: Andrew Whitehouse, Jo Vergunst

REGISTER

edin.ac/4d0liZ1

● Ecotheatre-Home Documentary Film

● 11:00–12:00 · CMB 4

A short film (23 minutes) following five teenagers (15–19 years old) during an ecotheatre summer camp in Northeast Scotland.

Hosts: Kelsey Grubbs, Laura Pasetti

REGISTER

edin.ac/49c4oWj

● Archives in Flux

● 11:00–15:00 · CMB 5 · drop-in window

Collective Collages of Grief, Repair, and Futures Otherwise.
Drawing on Erin Manning's anarchic concept.

Hosts: Vishwaveda Joshi, Julia Hackler

REGISTER

edin.ac/4d2IWp0

● Tomorrow's Anthropologists

12:00–13:00 · CMB 1

A Student Initiative.

Hosts: Ruby Downer, Kitty Oxley, Olivia Howell, Jerome Harris

REGISTER

edin.ac/4daPL85

● Baobab: The Tree of Oblivion

● 12:30–16:30 · CMB 4

Baobab is an immersive Mixed Reality experience that explores embodied memory, movement, and landscape as tools for engaging with histories of the African diaspora — across Brazil, West Africa, and the Atlantic.

Host: Amira Karaoud

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edin.ac/3PbxP3S

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● Why Do We Treat Machines Like People?

14:00–15:30 · CMB 2

An Interactive Anthropological Workshop drawing on anthropological perspectives to explore why we treat machines as social actors, and what this reveals about how humans relate to one another. No prior knowledge of anthropology or AI required. Includes a live AI character.

Hosts: Sarica Robyn Balsari, Andy Reischling

REGISTER

edin.ac/4d112ZL

● Unveiling Norwich

Summerhall

Finding Love and Sufism in Unexpected Places. A film about the Murabitun Sufi community.

Host: Olivia Barnett-Naghshineh

REGISTER

edin.ac/4f7yjCA

● New Climate Ethnographies

15:00–16:30 · CMB Practice Suite

A Collective Book Talk. Hybrid format.

Host: Susannah Crockford

REGISTER

edin.ac/4d6uavW

● ASA Climate Anthropology Network Social

17:00–19:00 · Royal Dick Pub, Summerhall

A social gathering of the ASA Climate Anthropology Network.

Hosts: Hannah Knox, Maria Salaru, Nayanika Mathur

REGISTER

edin.ac/3QVCis1

● Antidote to the River of Forgetting

19:00–20:00 · Tills Bookshop

Poetry as (Alternative) Archive.

Host: Rebecca Appleton

REGISTER

edin.ac/4dxH4Vg

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Sunday

31 MAY 2026

Drop-in sessions

Anthropology and Palestinian Heritage

10:30–16:00 · CMB 6 · drop-in
(continues from Saturday)

See Saturday for full description.

Hosts: Leen Farouki, Lee McNeish

Beyond Nuclear Decommissioning: Eco-telling the Future

10:30–14:30 · CMB Practice Suite · drop-in

Eco-telling the future. Character cards and the Mimesis-in-Action project, drawing on research in Caithness and West Cumbria.

Hosts: Sarah O'Brien, Petra Tjitske Kalshoven

Drop-in exhibitions (all weekend, in CMB foyer)

The “anthropology teaching collection” re-imagined · The Aftermath · Voicing lived experience. All 10:00–16:00.

See Friday for full descriptions.

Killing the messenger

10:00–16:00 · Violet Laidlaw Room · drop-in

An exhibition of all the Palestinian journalists killed during the conflict creates space for understanding the loss of human life, its intrinsic value and worth, and, the loss of truth, reported from Gaza by these journalists. This exhibit also stands as a site of remembrance for those who have been murdered and a site to resist the genocidal narratives that frame these victims as something other.

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Sunday

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● Experiments in Ecography

10:00–12:00 · Wardie Bay

Come and try combining ecology and ethnography at Edinburgh's coast. Citizen science using oyster shells.

Host: Rhys Anil Madden

REGISTER

edin.ac/4wmx6NO

The Migration Menu

10:00–12:00 · Kalpna restaurant

Live from Edinburgh with Tony Singh - podcast recording.

Hosts: Luke Heslop, James Staples

REGISTER

edin.ac/48TAq9g

● Zines will save the world

10:00–12:00 · Lighthouse Bookshop

The first section of this session will focus on how and why zines are a source for marginalised, queer and radical individuals and communities to speak to one another. It will explore the history of zines and how they continue to be a crucial tool for such communities. The discussion will consist of people who produce zines for a wide range of audiences.

The second section of the session will be an opportunity for participants to make their own zine. We will have all the tools required, but if you have materials you would like to work with, please bring them along; otherwise, you simply need to bring ideas on what you would like to make or what stories you would like to tell.

Organised by Delwar Hussain, Stephanie Shakay Tierney, and Grace Zhou (all UoE)

Hosts: Inna Yaneva-Toraman, Duc Nguyen

STRAND KEY

● Climate ● Methods ● Education ● Sensory & Creative ● Health & Care ■ Drop-in



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Sunday

31 MAY 2026

● See, Play, Discover (Game Demo)

● 10:30–12:30 · Dynamic Earth · drop-in

REGISTER

edin.ac/4neYZTQ

How is plastic waste impacting coastal communities and natural environments? Come and discover how plastic waste moves through rivers and along coasts, travels long distances, tangles in fishing nets, accumulates on beaches, and finds its way into humans and animals.

Come and play board games designed by youth in Vietnam to raise awareness and inspire action, and discover how research can take place beyond laboratories and classrooms.

This Sunday session is a longer game demo running 10:30–12:30.

Hosts: Inna Yaneva-Toraman, Duc Nguyen

● Health Activism and Citizenship

● 10:30–11:30 · CMB 1

REGISTER

edin.ac/4eEnW9i

Mobilising for access to health and conditions at work in the healthcare sector.

Host: Ayaz Qureshi

Report Launch — Bridgebuilding

● 10:30–12:00 · CMB 2

REGISTER

edin.ac/42qUoVb

Nurturing democracy amid polarization, Lessons from Colombia.

Hosts: Gwen Burnyeat, Juliana Ramirez

● What is a Public Secret and Why Does It Matter?

● 10:30–12:30 · CMB 4

REGISTER

edin.ac/4nm4O26

A film screening and workshop on researching East Germans' knowledge about the Stasi. Includes the 30-minute film The Open Secret (Das offene Geheimnis).

Hosts: Anselma Gallinat, Grit Wesser

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Sunday

31 MAY 2026

● Bridging the Gap

10:30–12:30 · CMB 5

Translating the Professional Value of Anthropology. Workshop hosted by the Digital Anthropology Collective.

Host: Samira Khalifa

REGISTER

edin.ac/4nlk3rP

Killing the Messenger

12:30–14:00 · CMB 2

Panel discussion that brings together the exhibition and the film screening into a wider academic conversation looking at how journalists report on political conflicts

Host: Lee McNeish

REGISTER

edin.ac/4daU8yW

● Why Anthropology in Schools Matters

13:00–14:30 · CMB 1

At a time when young people are navigating an increasingly complex and unequal world, anthropology offers tools for critical thinking, empathy, careful listening, and imaginative ways of understanding society.

Hosts: Sophie Cowling, Orlando Swan, Joy Hendry

REGISTER

edin.ac/4dffsDc

● Mapping the Substance of Trace

13:00–16:00 · CMB 5

A multimodal workshop. Counter-mapping methods, linked thematically to Friday's Audiovisual Remix.

Hosts: Lee Douglas, Aimee Joyce

REGISTER

edin.ac/3Rx4kKw

Living in Unprecedented Times

14:30–16:00 · CMB 2

Anthropology of Time Network.

Hosts: Lee Douglas, Aimee Joyce

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edin.ac/42uldrB

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● **Higher Education, Universities' Futures and Academic Capitalism**

15:00–16:30 · CMB 1

Roundtable debate on the crisis in British higher education.

Hosts: Cris Shore, Mariya Ivancheva

REGISTER

edin.ac/3RvAXrW

● **Bites of Culture**

14:30–15:30 · CMB 4

Anna and Noreen co-host Bites of Culture, a live podcast dedicated to the exploration of food and culture.

Host: Anna Pozzali

REGISTER

edin.ac/3PwZbS3

● **Fish Out of Water**

19:00–20:30 · The Waverley Bar

Ethnography Open Mic. The festival's closing event - ethnography spilling out of the seminar room and into the pub.

Hosts: Grace H. Zhou, Robyn Thomas

REGISTER

edin.ac/4uFYSmV

● **Near Birth**

19:00–20:30 · Tills Bookshop

Why should you care how babies are born?

Host: Andrea Ford

REGISTER

edin.ac/4toG0rC

Make sure to check the latest information on events at:
<https://www.theasa.org/conferences/peoplefest2026/programme>



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FIELDNOTES · CONTINUED

A SKETCH



a thing you saw however quickly.

Eighty years on

Eighty years of asking what it means to live a life. Eighty years of fieldwork in places vast and small - in cities and forests, in factories and clinics, in living rooms, on the internet, beside coasts and in queues. Eighty years of patient looking, careful listening, and the slow work of finding language for what other people already know.

ASA PeopleFest is the discipline's invitation to share that work. We are glad you came.

What you have heard, seen, made, walked through, or written down across this weekend now belongs to you. Take it with you. Notice with it.



ASA PeopleFest 2026
The Public Anthropology Festival
29–31 May 2026 · University of Edinburgh

Hosted by Social Anthropology, School of Social and Political Science, University of Edinburgh, and the Association of Social Anthropologists of the UK and Commonwealth.

With thanks to all event organisers, contributors, volunteers, and to the staff of the participating venues across the city.

theasa.org/peoplefest2026 · sps.ed.ac.uk

Make sure to check the latest information on events at:
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