



## **Call for Abstracts**

**Doctoral and ECR Workshop at SOAS, University of London**

### **Policing Intimacies: Interdisciplinary Approaches to the Regulation of Love, Marriage, and Inter-community Relationships**

Submit a 300 word abstract to Nidah Kaiser ([nk52@soas.ac.uk](mailto:nk52@soas.ac.uk)) and Saumya Maheshwari ([685403@soas.ac.uk](mailto:685403@soas.ac.uk))

Submission Deadline: 27 April 2025

Selection Outcome: May 2025 (third week)

Half-a-day Workshop: 26 June 2025 (Format: online and in person)

Authoritarian regimes often utilise "othering" as a tool to enforce control, particularly through the policing of inter-community interactions and relationships in personal and social spheres, encompassing business, friendship, love, marriage, housing, and property transactions. This form of social regulation can be seen in various historical and contemporary examples. In India, recent anti-conversion laws and uniform civil code seek to control interfaith relationships, while housing policies segregate communities. In their extreme forms in Nazi Germany and apartheid South Africa, racial purity laws strictly regulated intimate relationships. Against this background, we invite doctoral and early career researchers seeking to understand:

Why do intimacy, love, interpersonal relationships, and marriage become sites of political control? How do policies and public discourses construct "otherness" to justify such interventions? How are the tools of surveillance, legal regulation, and social stigma deployed to manage interpersonal relationships? In the context of such policing, how can we re-imagine the role of the state in regulating intimacies?

With this workshop, we intend to help researchers intellectually engage with each other's theoretical and methodological approaches to studying the regulation of intimacies and inter-community relationships in today's world.

Abstracts may include studies integrating political science, history, sociology, anthropology, gender studies, and law to understand the mechanisms of political control over personal life. Participants may present early-stage research proposals, preliminary findings from fieldwork, or chapters from their doctoral thesis.

**Limited funding is available to subsidise the travel expenses of select participants travelling to London from other parts of the UK. If you require a travel bursary, please let us know in your email submission.**