Dear Postgraduate Students,

I am writing with an update on the situation regarding the method of delivery of lectures and classes for the MPhil Courses.

As you will be aware, the intention is to hold as much postgraduate teaching in person as possible. However, there are significant obstacles in the way of doing this. We need the maximum possible space in order to allow for as much social distancing as possible, while ensuring, at the same time, sufficient ventilation. These clear objectives have been rendered more difficult to achieve, given the clear increase in the number of students in the current academic year, and the recently started refurbishment of the Sidgwick Lecture Block, which historically has always provided the Faculty with the much needed teaching space. Moreover, we need to ensure that all students have access to recordings of the same lectures that those students who are able to attend the University in person receive.

In response to these constraints, the Faculty has decided on the following approach:

1. In line with University guidelines, and in line with the best practice agreed across the entire School of Humanities, all lectures with 100 or more students will be held online.
2. Lectures where enrolment/attendance exceeds the risk assessed limit for the allocated lecture room will be moved online.
3. For everybody’s safety, students are required to wear masks in lectures, and whilst moving to and from lectures.
4. If a lecturer feels adequate ventilation is not possible, or health measures are not being met, they may request that the course be moved online.
5. We have been in close contact with the University to try to ensure that adequate recording equipment is in place in all lecture rooms used by the Faculty. However, in cases where the University is unable to provide such equipment and some students studying the corresponding module are unavoidably studying remotely, it is likely that lectures will be moved online so that recording of adequate quality can take place.
6. As many classes as possible will be in person, but for each class at least one session will be online and recorded.
7. All online lectures that are not already interactive will be complemented with interactive sessions. There will also be office hours as usual.