

Power in Britain

Final year module

Lecturer: [Dr Stephen Bates \(/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/staff/profiles/bates-stephen.aspx\)](/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/staff/profiles/bates-stephen.aspx)

Bertrand Russell argued that "the fundamental concept in social science is power, in the same sense in which energy is the fundamental concept in physics". This module provides you with the opportunity to develop a sophisticated understanding of different theories of power and to undertake analyses of the distribution, sources, sites and relations of power in British society. It also offers you the opportunity to take a lead in investigating specific instances of power in Britain in which you have a particular interest.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module the student should be able to:

- Demonstrate an in-depth understanding of the normative, meta-theoretical and methodological issues involved in analysing power;
- Be able to utilise their knowledge of these theories and associated issues to provide theoretically informed analyses of the distribution, sites, sources and relations of power in the UK;
- Present their research to their peers in a comprehensive and accessible manner.

Assessment

- Term One: 1 x 2,000 word assessed work (35%)
- Term Two: Presentation (15%)
- Term Three: 1 x 3,000 word assessed work (50%)