

# Studying Political Science / PPE / International Relations

June 2020



project access



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2. Today's panelists
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# The goal of this webinar



# Three goals of this workshop



## Is Political Science for you?

What is Political Science and what topics will you study?



## Where can you study PolSci?

What you should look out for when making your choice?



## What happens after PolSci?

What career and further study options will you have?

**And of course answering all other questions you have about Political Science, PPE and International Relations!**



# Today's focus: Political Science



## Philosophy

*The WHY*

Why is there a human right to health and what does this right entail?

**-> Some Political Philosophy today**



## Politics

*The HOW*

How can political systems produce policies promoting the right to health?



## Economics

*The WHAT*

What policies can be implemented to grant the right to health?

**-> Join webinar on 11<sup>th</sup> June**



# Today's panelists

Who we are and what we studied



# Max Spohn



From: **Austria**

Undergrad: **PPE @ UCL**

Postgrad: **Behavioral & Decision Sciences @ UPenn**

PolSci Interests: **Public Policy, Voting Behaviour, Political Psychology, Public Opinion**

Internships: **BCG, various startup projects**

Role at PA: **Marketing Analytics & Strategy; Mentor**

Interests: **Music, Art, Travelling, Aviation Industry**



# Caroline Kamper



From: **Denmark**

Undergrad: **IR & War Studies @ King's College**

Year of study: **1<sup>st</sup> year**

PolSci Interests: **Global relations, Defence and Security Policy, War and Criminal Justice**

Internships: **The Danish Atlantic Council**

Role at PA: **Marketing @ Team Denmark; Mentor**

Interests: **Travelling, History, Writing**





# Aryan Aneja



From: **India**

Undergrad: **PPE @ Warwick**

Year of study: **1<sup>st</sup> year**

PolSci Interests: **American Politics, Technology and Democratic Innovations**

Internships: **The Economic Times, Delhi Election Education Center**

Role at PA: **Partnerships @ Warwick**

Interests: **Films, Technology, Debating**

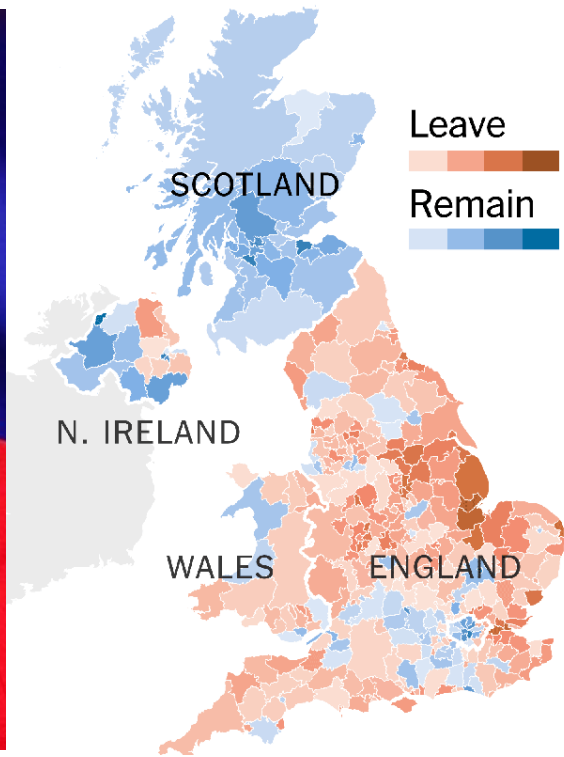


# Why Political Science?

What will you learn when you study Political Science and why is it an exciting field?



# Why study Political Science in 2016?

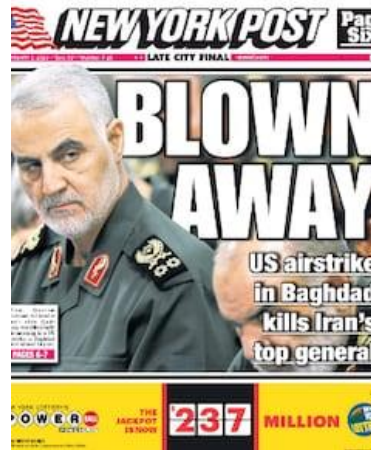


**Results by location**

Location	Remain	Leave
Britain	48%	52%
England	47%	53%
London	60%	40%
Scotland	62%	38%
Wales	48%	53%
N. Ireland	56%	44%



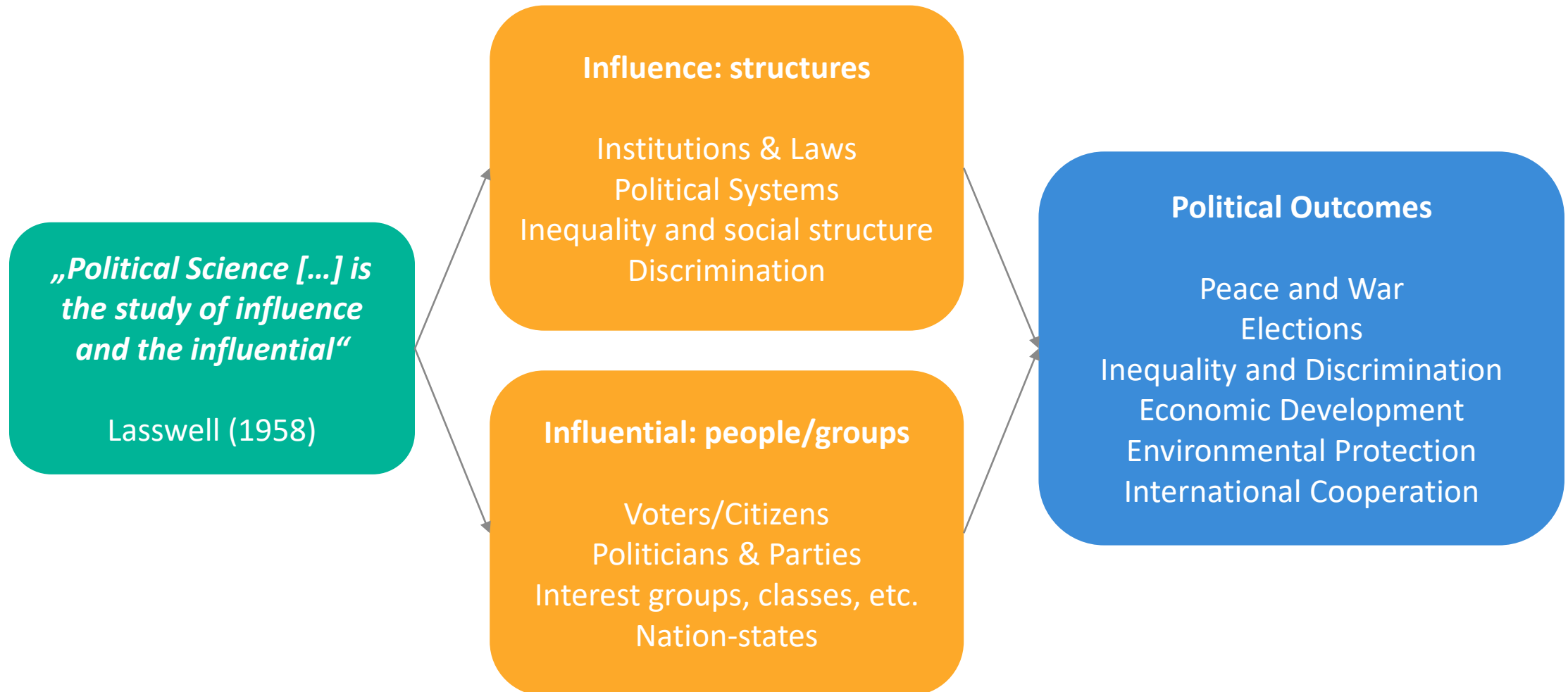
# Why study Political Science in 2020?





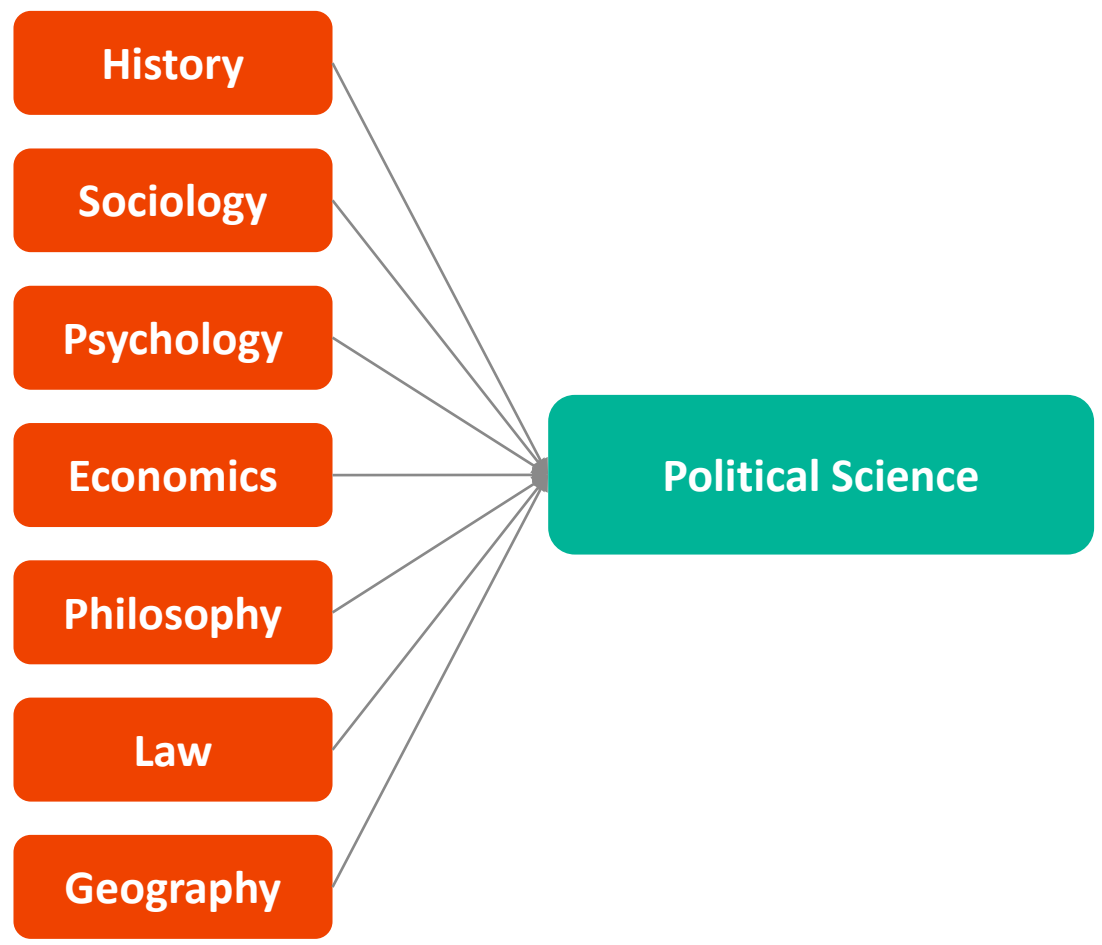


# What is Political Science?



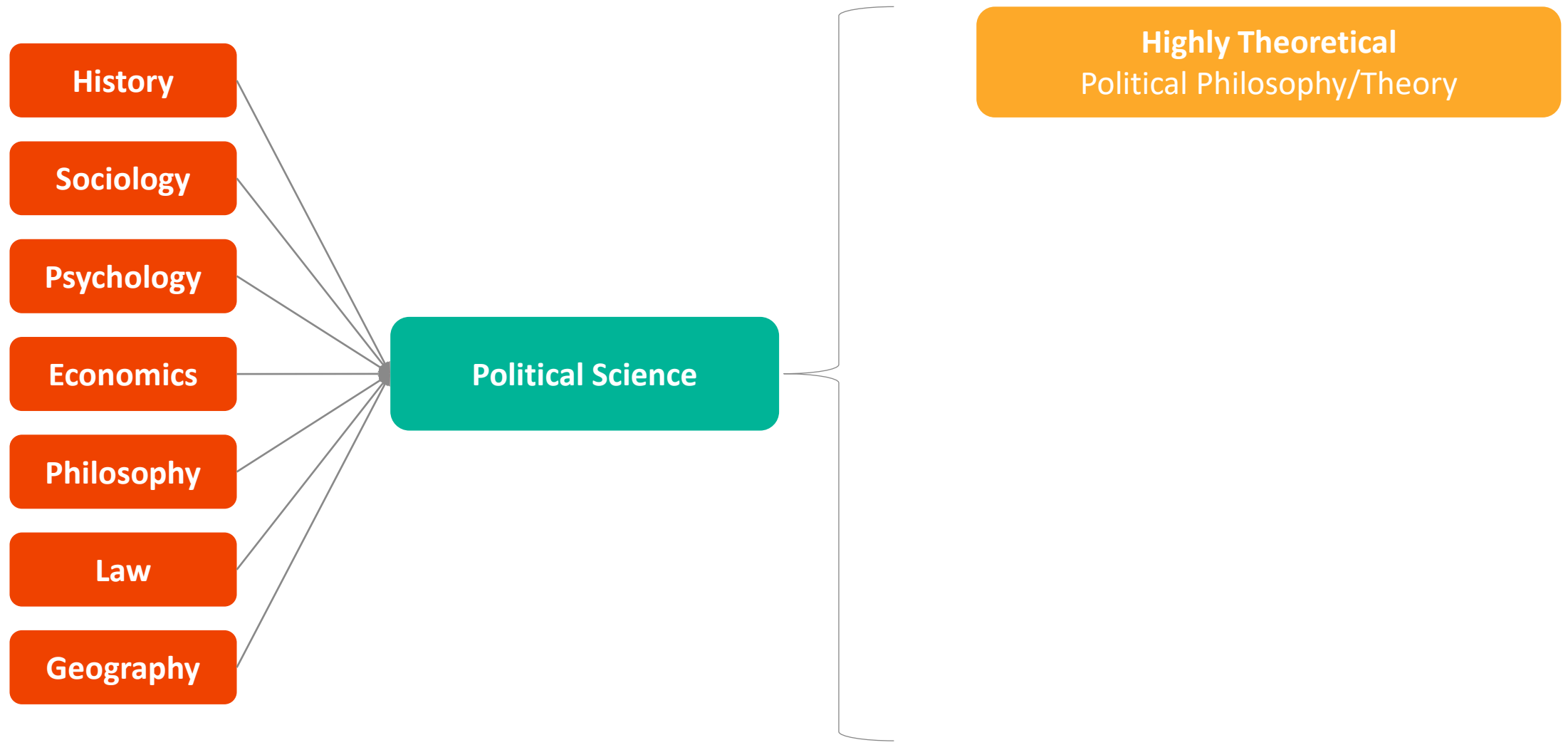


# The foundations of political science





# Political Theory = Political Science?







# Some core questions in Political Theory



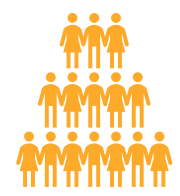
Why should there be a state? What gives some people the right to rule over others?



What are the limits of government? Is torture permissible? What is the freedom of speech?



Can nationalism be justified? What are the ethical foundations of immigration?



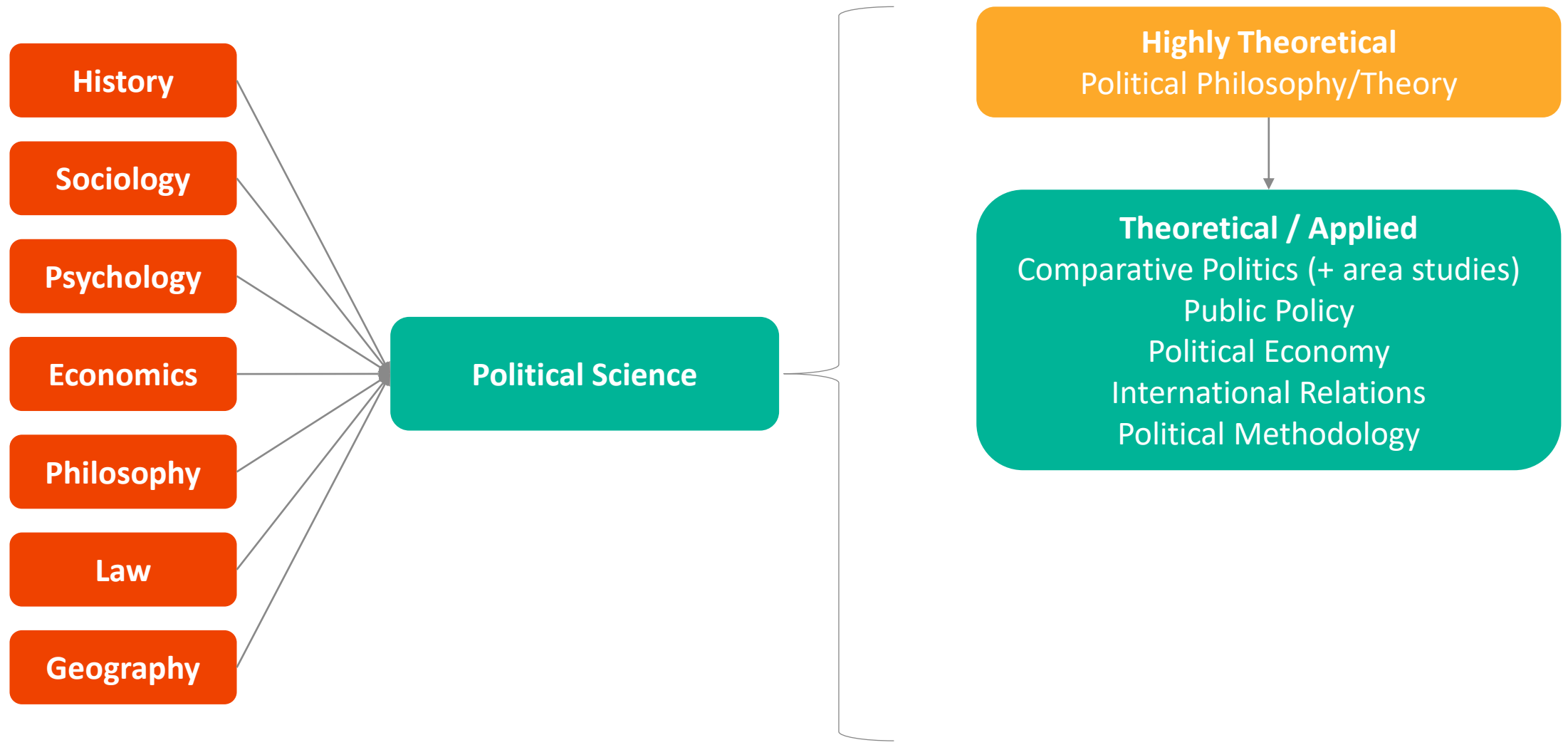
What form should a government have? How should minorities be protected?



What distributions of resources like wealth are just? How can private property be justified?



# The empirical core of political science





# Core questions in Comparative Politics



Do differences in institutions (voting systems, constitutions, etc.) matter?



How do democracies differ from autocratic systems and how can they “democratize”?



What role do political cultures and values play in different political systems?



How do party systems and influence groups differ between political systems?

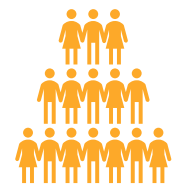


How can the experiences of single countries help us understand political patterns?

# Some core questions in Public Policy



How do certain topics enter the political agenda and how are they turned into policy output?



What role do the citizens play in making policy and do they make rational decisions?



How do politicians behave and what are their primary goals in office?



What role does the bureaucracy play in devising and implementing policies?



How do institutional arrangements influence processes behind public policy?



# Some core questions in Political Economy



Why did countries historically follow different patterns of economic performance?



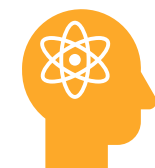
How and why did governments in different countries adopt different redistributive policies?



How can we explain economic inequalities within and between countries?



What can explain differences in current fiscal and monetary policies?



How will political pressures and economic policies change in the Knowledge Economy?



# Core questions in International Relations



How can we explain the relationships between politics and power between nation-states?



Is there an international society and what role do international/transnational organisations play?



How has the nature of war changed throughout history and what alternatives exist today?



How are patterns of world trade changing and what forces drive these trade patterns?



Should security start with states or people and how can peace and security be built effectively?



# Core questions in Political Methodology



## Quantitative

*Numerical data*

Finding / Collecting data  
Statistics & Programming

How can we find causal relationships rather than correlations?



## Qualitative

*Non-numerical data*

Interviews, Observations  
Discourse Analysis, Interpretivism,  
Ethnographic Analysis

How can convincing conclusions be drawn from evidence?



## Normative

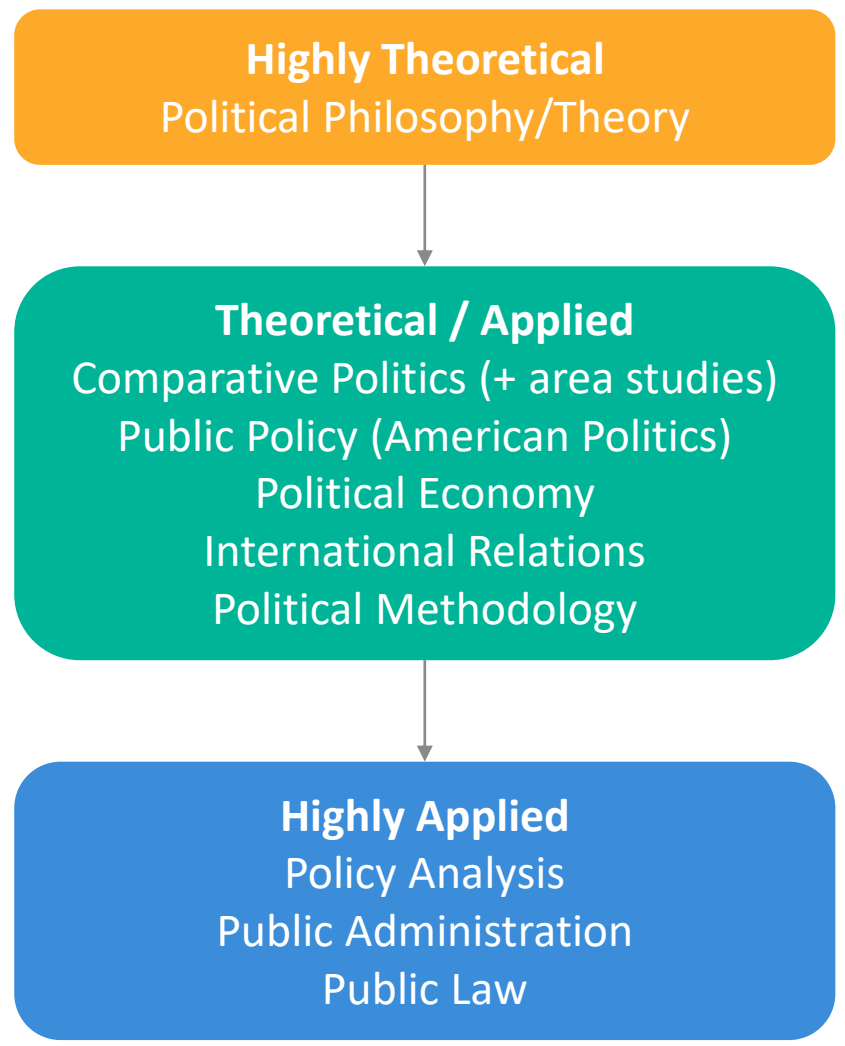
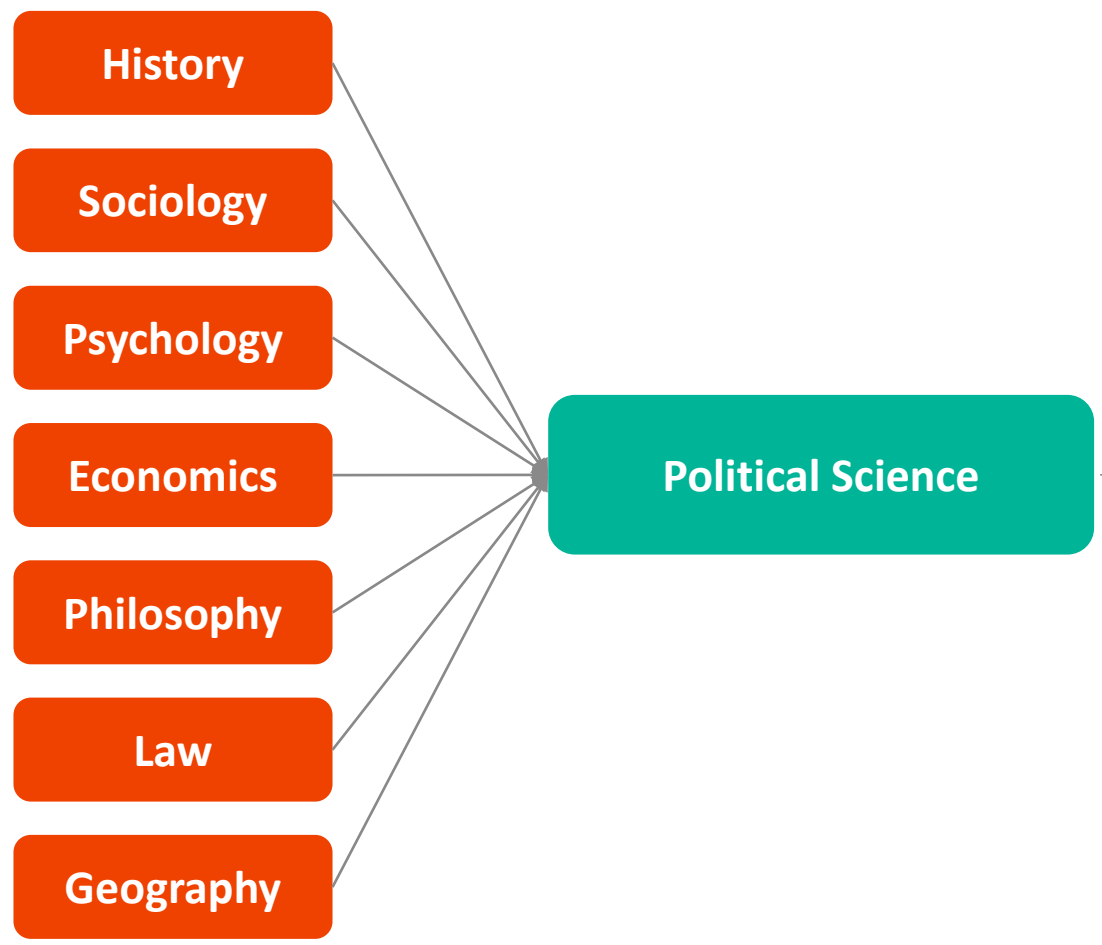
*Is ≠ Should*

Thought experiments  
Logical argumentation

Can we define any normative standards as benchmarks?



# Political Science applied to the world







# Political Science at different universities



Almost every top university has a PolSci department, so the choice can be difficult – we give you some suggestion on what to keep in mind when making yours.



# What to look out for when choosing your university



## The course

Is there a specialization/focus?

How free is your choice of modules?

Which modules will you take?

What are the academics' interests?

Class and cohort sizes?

University reputation and alumni careers?



## The university

City or campus life?

Clubs, societies, activities?

Small college or big university?

**-> Join webinar on 9<sup>th</sup> June**



# Some courses to consider

## BSc PPE @ UCL

Department strong in Public Policy  
Econ and Philosophy courses in the  
respective departments  
Unique quantitative methods track

## BA PPE @ Oxford

The „original“ PPE  
Bipartite or Tripartite choice from second  
year  
Many specializations within PolSci

## PPE Major @ UPenn

Focus on Psychology, Behavioural  
Economics and Social Norms  
Topical specializations in: Globalization,  
Choice and Behavior, Public Policy, Ethics,  
Distributive Justice

## BSc PPE @ LSE

Equal weight to all three subjects in 4 years  
Interdisciplinary courses designed for the  
program  
Final year as a Capstone Project



# Some more courses to consider

## BA HSPS @ Cambridge

Combining Political Science with Sociology and Social Anthropology

Flexible tracks and combinations between these fields

## BA IR & War Studies @ King's

Interdisciplinary department with options in politics, history, economics, war studies, philosophy, etc.

Year abroad options

## BA/BSc PPE @ Warwick

Both BA and BSc possible, depending on track and amount of economics

Year abroad options

Final year modules bridge all disciplines

## BA ESPS @ UCL

Specializations in law, economics, IR, history, politics, sociology

Dual degree with Sciences Po possible

European language and study abroad in Europe



# Some more courses to consider

## BA HPE @ UCL

Focus on Eastern European History, Politics and Economics

All courses taught at School of Slavonic and Eastern European Studies, not at Economics or History Departments

## Major PolSci @ Columbia

Dual Degree between Columbia and Sciences Po

Political Science Major can be combined with concentrations in Economics, History and other Social Sciences

## Major PolSci @ Stanford

Choose between tracks: Data Science, Delections/Governance, IR, Justice and Law, Political Economy/Development

Very flexible with many outside options in other departments

## BA/BSc Political Economy @ King's

Specialized course in Political Economy with possible concentration in economics

Great year abroad options

One of the biggest Political economy departments



# Example of a PPE degree at UCL – Economics & Politics Stream

## Year 1

Intro to Political Science  
Modern Classics in Political  
Analysis  
Economics 101  
Mathematics for Economics  
Intro to Logic  
History of Philosophy  
(Hume, Descartes)

## Year 2

International Relations  
Comparative Politics  
Public Policy  
Microeconomics  
Macroeconomic Theory and  
Policy  
Introduction to Quantitative  
Methods

## Year 3

Politics of the EU  
The Politics of Economic  
Policy in WEIRD countries  
International Political  
Economy  
Policy Analysis/Evaluation  
Behavioural Economics  
Household Economics  
PPE Capstone  
Dissertation



# What you can expect from studying



Between 10 and 15 contact hours per week with professors and TAs.



A lot of independent study in the library and readings.



A mix of lectures (50+ students) and seminars (up to 15 students).



In the US: core curriculum before majoring in Political Science.



You will have a lot of fun and meet loads of interesting people.



# A typical week in Caroline's 1<sup>st</sup> year



## TIMETABLES

Student: **KAMPER, CAROLINE** CAROLINE KAMPER

Weeks: 7 (7 Oct 2019-13 Oct 2019)

	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30	12:00	12:30	13:00	13:30	14:00	14:30	15:00	15:30	16:00	16:30	17:00	17:30
Mon			4SSW1006 INTERNATIONAL R SY 000001/Lecture/01 Nicholas Michelsen 5-16, 21- 31 KINGS BDLG SAFRA LECTURE THEATRE	Lecture									4SSW1006 INTERNATIONAL R SY 000001/Sem/09 <5-16> Andrea Varsori 5-16 Bush House (SE) 2.03	Seminar	4AAOB104 INTRODUCTION TO SY 000001/Lecture/01 <5-9, 11-15> Christopher Holmes, Yue Zhou (Joe) LIN 5-9, 11-15 KINGS BLDG K6.29 (Anatomy Lecture Theatre)	Lecture				
Tue					4AAOB104 INTRODUCTION TO SY 000001/Sem/04 <5-9, 11-15> Yue Zhou (Joe) LIN 5-9, 11-15 KINGS BLDG K0.19	Seminar											4SSW1008 CONFLICT AND DI TERM1 000001/Sem/08 Luigi Lonardo 7, 9, 11, 13, 15 Bush House (S)4.03	Seminar		
Wed							4SSW1007 HISTORY OF THE SY 000001/Lecture/01 <5-16> Walter Ladwig 5- 16 KINGS BDLG SAFRA LECTURE THEATRE	Lecture												
Thu					4SSW1007 HISTORY OF THE SY 000001/Sem/10 <5-16> Angharad Fletcher 5-16 STRAND BLDG S3.41	Seminar														
Fri												SSW Compulsory: Workshop Study Skills Session <7> Nicholas Michelsen 7 STRAND BLDG S- 2.18								
Sat																				
Sun																				

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[Print Timetable](#)

Date/Time: 3 Jun 2020 12:41







# A typical week in Max' 3<sup>rd</sup> year

	9:00	10:00	11:00	12:00	13:00	14:00	15:00	16:00	17:00	18:00
MON						<b>Lecture</b> <b>ECON0040-A6U-T1</b> <b>Behavioural Economics</b> GURGUC, Zeynep (Dr) Birkbeck Malet Street B36 6-7, 9-16				
TUE				<b>Lecture</b> <b>ECON0115-A6U-T1</b> <b>Topics in Household Economics</b> LECHENE, Valerie (Dr) Student Central 3D 6-10		<b>Lecture</b> <b>POLS0020-A6U-T1</b> <b>Politics of the European Union</b> WRIGHT, Nicholas (Dr) Roberts Building 309 6-10, 12-16		<b>Seminar</b> <b>POLS0020-B6U-T1</b> <b>Politics of the European Union</b> WRIGHT, Nicholas (Dr) Malet Place Engineering Building 1.04 6-10, 12-16 SEM1		
WED										
THU										
FRI		<b>Tutorials</b> <b>ECON0115-A6U-T1</b> <b>Topics in Household Economics</b> ROWLEY, Jeff (Mr) Birkbeck Gordon Sq (43) 327 7, 9, 11, 13 TUTC		<b>Lecture</b> <b>POLS0015-A6U-T1</b> <b>PPE Capstone: Selected Topics</b> GIFT, Thomas (Mr) Tavistock (29) SPP Council Room 6-10, 12-16		<b>Seminar</b> <b>POLS0015-A6U-T1</b> <b>PPE Capstone: Selected Topics</b> GIFT, Thomas (Mr) Tavistock (31) SPP Committee Room 2 9, 13-15 SEM3				



# Careers and Opportunities



The options are limitless – it does not matter much what you have studied, there are few industries that would not hire PPE / Political Science graduates.



# “Oxford PPE dominates public life”



David Cameron  
Former UK Prime Minister



Aung San Suu Kyi  
State Counsellor of Myanmar



Imran Khan  
Prime Minister of Pakistan



Malala Yousafzai  
Nobel Peace Prize Winner



**BUT...**

**YOU DON'T HAVE TO STUDY PPE AT OXFORD**

**YOU DON'T HAVE TO BECOME A POLITICIAN**

**THE OPPORTUNITIES ARE ENDLESS**



# What really matters are the skills and the way of thinking

**Studying PPE or Political Science will give you...**

**Analytical thinking** – how do you structure and approach new challenges?

**Quantitative skills** – can you understand and use data?

**Research skills** – can you investigate new problems in a thorough way?

**Communication skills** – can you communicate your ideas to different audiences?

**Interdisciplinarity** – are you using different frameworks and approaches?

**You don't believe us? This is what UCL PPE students who graduated in 2018 and 2019 are now doing...**



# Politics, Civil Service and Public Policy

**Policy Officer** at the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office

**Parliamentary Assistant** at the European Parliament

**Intern** at the German Embassy in Kyiv

**Data Analyst** at the Transport Unit of the City of Bratislava

**Academic Advisor** for a German politician





# Journalism

**Freelance Business and Technology  
Reporter** at Decrypt

**Country Editor Assistant** at The  
Business Year







# Consulting / Professional Services / Law

**Management Consultants** at McKinsey, BCG, Bain, Deloitte Digital, Roland Berger

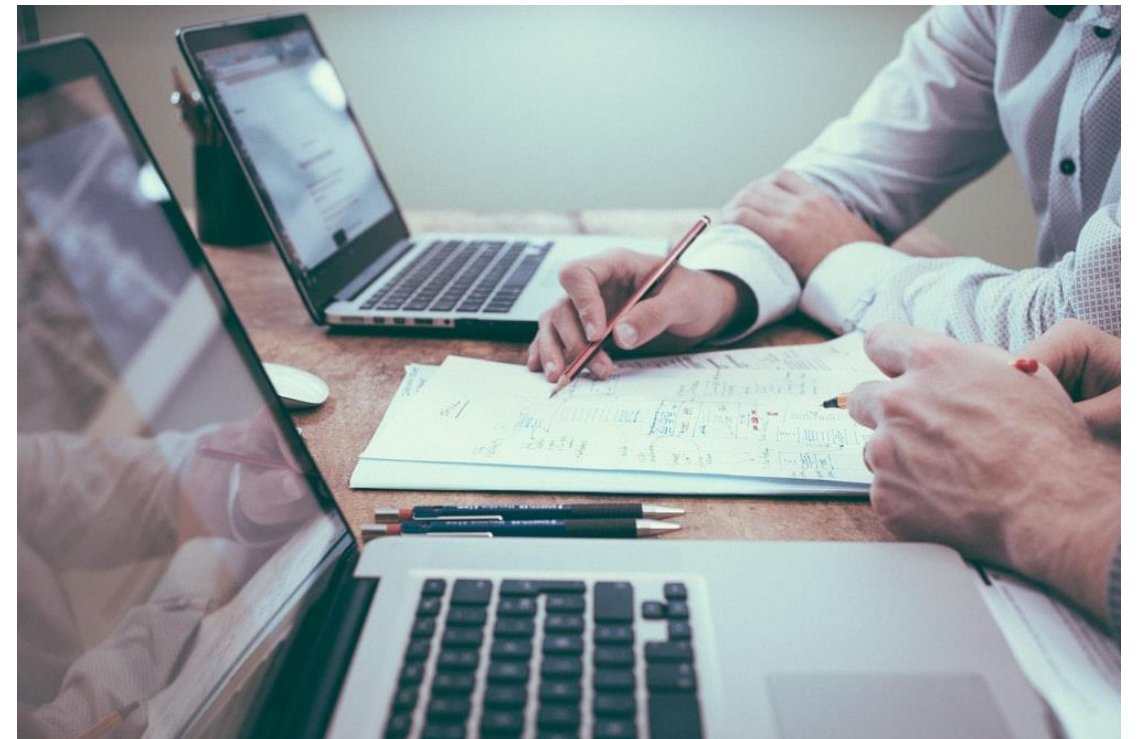
**Financial Services Consultant** at PWC

**Data & Analytics Associate** at PWC

**Associate** at Grant Thornton

**Financial Industry Analyst** at Deloitte

**Trainee Solicitor** at Latham & Watkins





# Financial Industry

**Private Equity Analyst** at Goldman Sachs

**Risk Manager** at London Stock Exchange Group

**Graduate Associate** at London Stock Exchange Group

**Data Scientist** at FNA (Financial Network Analysis)

**Investment Associate** at Fuel Ventures





# Startups / Social Entrepreneurship

**International Programmes Manager** at  
IDEAS Globally

**Founder Trainee** at refurbished

**Co-founders** at ethi

**Various roles** at Project Access ;)





# Further Studies

**Applied Social Data Science** at LSE

**Regional and Urban Planning Studies** at LSE

**Economics** at Oxford

**European Political Economy** at LSE

**Behavioral and Decision Sciences** at UPenn and LSE

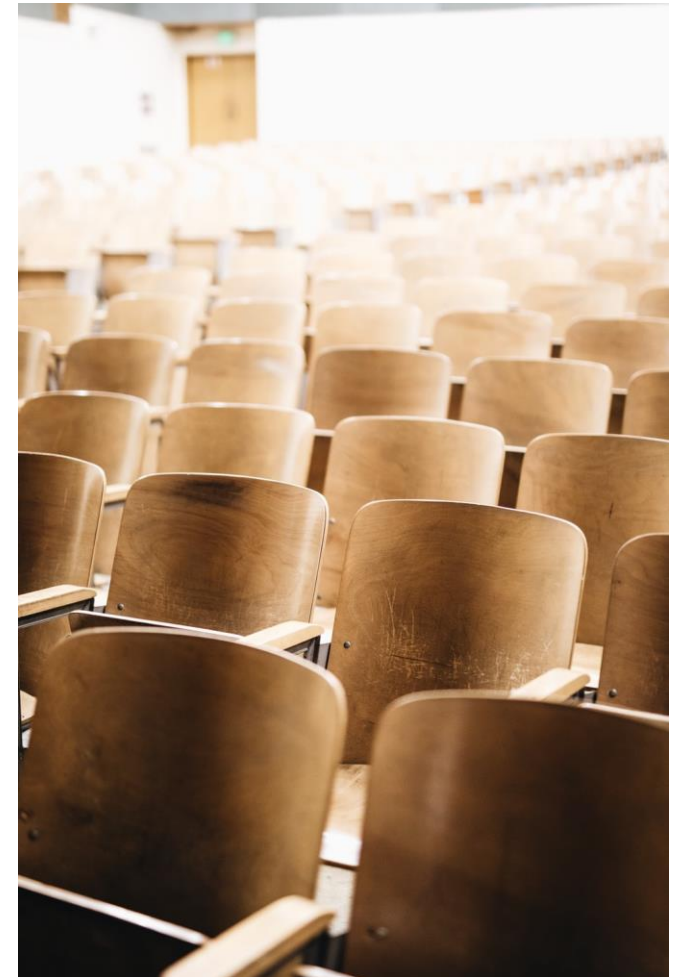
**Social Science of the Internet** at Oxford

**Development Studies** at Cambridge

**Quantitative Methods for Social Sciences** at Columbia

**Epidemiology** at UCL

**Management** at ESSEC



# Q & A

You ask – we answer! What do you want to know about studying PPE/  
Political Science/ International  
Relations at university?

# Contact



## **Malin Bornemann**

Head of Access Academy

malin.bornemann@projectaccess.org

## **Max Spohn**

Marketing Analytics & Strategy

max.spohn@projectaccess.org

## **Caroline Kamper**

Marketing Officer Team Denmark

caroline.kamper@projectaccess.org

## **Aryan Aneja**

Warwick Partnerships Officer

aryan.aneja@projectaccess.org