



Supervising the Growing Number of Part Time Students

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Challenging the Norm

2006-7 Doctoral Graduates in the UK

	Full-time	Part-time
Female	5,985	1,760
Male	7,675	2,120

Because they take longer to complete, there is a higher proportion of doctoral students studying part-time than these figures imply.

Challenging the Norm

'Of 58,000 full time doctoral students in 2004/05 48% are non-UK and 14% are from other EU member states –

'in addition of 54,000 part-time doctoral students 33% are non-UK and 11% are from other EU member states'

[Memo from RCUK to the House of Commons Education & Skills Committee Enquiry into HE.]



Heterogeneity within

- ρ Employment
- ρ Interest
- ρ Dependents
- ρ Responsibilities
- ρ Maturity
- ρ Motivations
- ρ Access to support provision

Process or Cultural Web?

The Process Model

Selection



Admission/Registration



Induction



Transfer

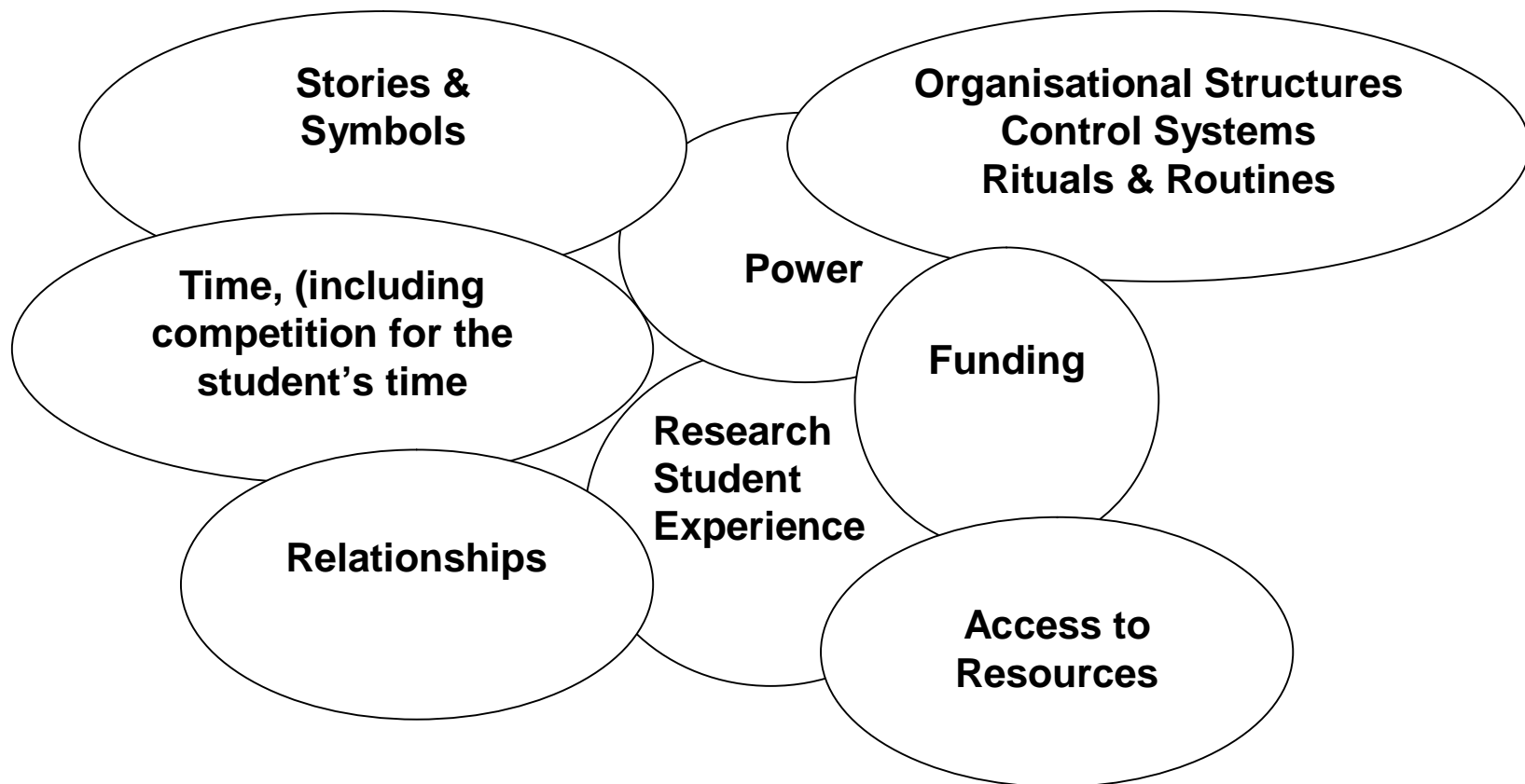


Assessment



Graduation

The Cultural Web of Doctoral Study

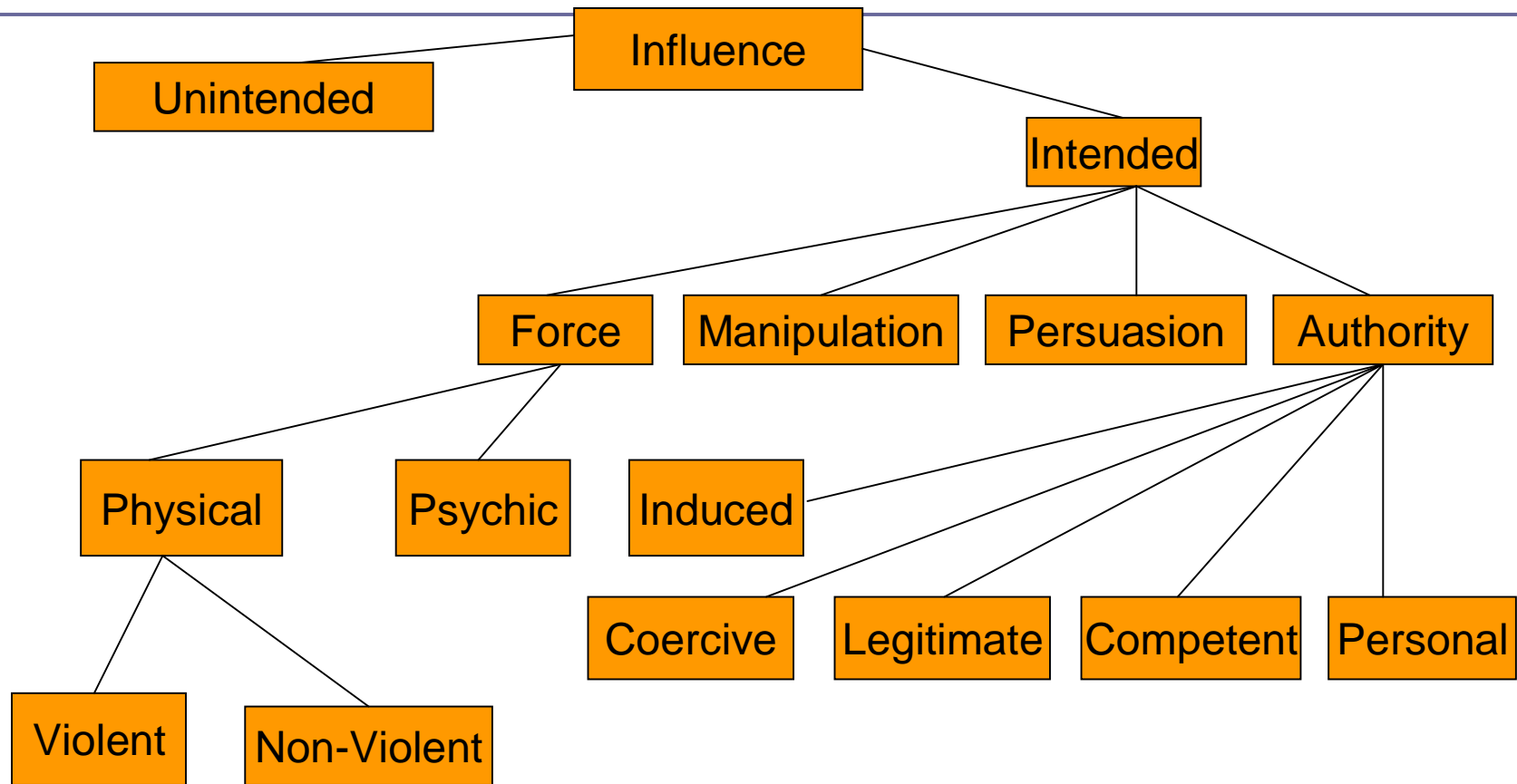


Power 1 (Lukes)

Lukes (1974), three dimensions of power:

1. The direct power of one individual to influence another to behave in a way which the former would prefer and the latter might not.
2. The power of an individual to define the agenda and thus, prevent another individual from voicing their concerns, desires and interests.
3. The third dimension is systemic and relates to the power of an individual to define what counts as important or appropriate. It operates through the process of socialisation and control over the supply of information.

Power 2 – Denis Wrong



Other Substantive Issues

- ⌘ Organisational structures and control systems
- ⌘ Stories, symbols, rituals and routines
- ⌘ Access to resources
- ⌘ Funding
- ⌘ Relationships
- ⌘ Time
- ⌘ 'Becoming a PhD' – socialisation

Overcoming Disadvantages

The Guide* makes recommendations for all involved in provision for Part-time PhD students, in particular for supervisors that they receive training on the special challenges they face.

*A. McCulloch and P. Stokes (2008)

The Silent Majority: Meeting the Needs of Part-time Research Students, Series 2 Number 5, Guides on Postgraduate Issues, London: SRHE