

its broadest field, political sociology is concerned with the relationship between politics and society. Its  
 distinctiveness within the social sciences lies in its acknowledgement that political actors<sup>^</sup> including 265  
 within a wider social context. Political actors therefore, include pressure groups and social movements  
 etc. Such social structures inevitably shape and are shaped by, social structures such as  
 ensure that political influence within society is unequal. It follows from this that a key concept in political  
 sociology is that power, where power is defined as the capacity to achieve one's objectives even when  
 those objectives are in conflict with the interests of another actor. Political sociologists therefore  
 invariably return to the following question: which individuals and groups in society possess the capacity  
 to pursue their interests, and how is this power exercised and institutionalized