

WHAT IS POWER?

Presented by the Collaborative Humanities
Investigating Religion and Power Lab

01. WHAT IS POWER?

02. EXAMPLE ONE

The signature of “power over”

03. EXAMPLE TWO

The signature of “power with”

04. EXAMPLE THREE

The signature of “power to”

HOW DO WE APPROACH POWER?

“The concept of power is best approached through its particular signature”

Mitchell Dean (2012) The signature of power, Journal of Political Power, 5:1, 114, DOI:
10.1080/2158379X.2012.659864.

EXAMPLE ONE: THE SIGNATURE OF “POWER OVER”

UNPAID STUDENT LABOR:

Experience is necessary for future, however,
current actions are not beneficial
financially.

- “A has power over B to the extent that he can get B to do something B would not otherwise do.” (Dean, 2012)

EXAMPLE TWO: THE SIGNATURE OF “POWER WITH”

ACADEMIC MENTORSHIP

CHIRP Lab: Collaborative, Interdisciplinary

- Mutually beneficial power exchange.
- Acknowledging respectability of each party.
- A has some power over B, B has some power over A

EXAMPLE THREE: THE SIGNATURE OF “POWER TO”

TENURE

The institution granting tenure to protect a faculty from risk of job loss. Therefore, empowering them to take more risk in their research.

- “Capacity of actors to achieve their purposes.” (Dean, 2012)
- A is *able* to effect B to get A’s desired outcome.