



## **Interrelationship of Political Science with Other Social Sciences**

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### **Abstract**

**Objective:** The current study explores the nature of political science as a multidisciplinary subject based on literature review and research articles.

**Methodology:** A qualitative and interpretive approach will be adopted, utilizing only theoretical knowledge and not conducting any data collection process.

**Findings:** Political science draws upon several disciplines for its theory and methodology. History is connected with it to put politics in context; economics contributes to its analysis of policies and resources distribution; sociology sheds light on the role of society in political processes. Anthropology helps in analyzing the culture of governments, whereas psychology helps in understanding voter psychology and the nature of leaders. Public health offers knowledge about the involvement of governments during health emergencies, and demography is helpful for electoral strategies. Geography offers spatial analysis, including electoral geography, whereas cultural studies offer knowledge of how norms affect political systems. Additionally, political science involves analysis in the disciplines of international relations (international interactions and diplomacy), law (making laws and their effects), and public administration.



**Conclusion:** Political science cannot be fully understood in a vacuum. Any comprehensive understanding of its political phenomena requires interdisciplinary analysis involving history, economics, sociology, anthropology, psychology, public health, demography, geography, cultural studies, international relations, law, and public administration.

**Keywords:** Interdisciplinary, Inter-relation, Political science, Social sciences

## **Introduction**

The origins of Western politics can be traced to Greek philosophers Socrates, Plato and Aristotle. Their works focused on philosophical inquiries. Plato authored *The Republic*, while Aristotle wrote *The Politics*. Known as the Father of Political Science, Aristotle famously declared, "Man is a political animal." The term 'politics' comes from the Greek word 'polis,' meaning city-state (McClelland, 1996).

The evolution of political science as a discipline has been marked by increasing specialisation and integration across subdisciplines, driven by a shared intellectual agenda and theoretical innovations (Goodin & Klingemann, 1998). The field has undergone a process of "scientification," adopting systematic observation and the scientific method for studying politics (Bond, 2007). This development has been accompanied by debates over the relationship between politics and science and challenges to the discipline within the profession. The founding of the American Political Science Association represented a significant transformation, reformulating the relationship between political science and politics (Gunnell, 2006). The discipline's evolution has been characterised by its transnational nature, with the field developing and disseminating across national borders and cultural divides. This global perspective has contributed to political science becoming a growing transnational body of knowledge (Easton et al., 1991).

A political scientist, Paul Janet, defined 'political science as that part of social science which treats the foundations of the state and principles of government'. Political science is the branch of knowledge that deals with the state and systems of government and the scientific analysis of political activity and behaviour. It is multidisciplinary and relates to other disciplines. Interdisciplinary collaboration in academia is essential for political science to comprehend and elucidate political actions. This necessity compels political science to utilise insights and knowledge from related academic disciplines (Mathew & Awopeju, 2012).

The Latin word *disciplina*, which means "to instruct, educate, and train," is the origin of the word discipline. Usually, a discipline refers to a particular branch of knowledge. Oxford Dictionary (2018) defines discipline as "a branch of knowledge, typically one studied in higher education". The term interdisciplinary is the synthesis of two or more disciplines, establishing a new level of discourse and integration of knowledge (Choi & Pak, 2006). The concept of interdisciplinary research is the primary concern of this paper. Grossman (1979) had very extensively defined interdisciplinary as "the joint, coordinated and continuously integrated research done by experts with different disciplinary backgrounds, working together and producing joint reports, papers, recommendations and plans, which are so strongly and



thoroughly interwoven that the specific contribution of each researcher tends to be obscured by the joint product". In inter-disciplinarily, experts of two or more disciplines sit together, share ideas for a specific issue, integrate the ideas, prepare a common research approach, work together on the project, and make a standard report so that the result gives a separate concept that is quite different from the individual disciplines which makes a significant contribution in the society.

Political science has developed as an interdisciplinary field, interacting with various social sciences while maintaining its distinct identity (Dogan, 1998; Almond & verba 2015). This interdisciplinarity enriches political science, allowing for innovation and broader perspectives on complex issues. While specialisation is inevitable due to expanding knowledge, there is a constant exchange of ideas and methodologies among disciplines to avoid isolation.

Political science shares close scholarly associations with history, economics, sociology, anthropology, geography, and social psychology disciplines. However, political science has its unique area of human experience to analyse and conceptual schemes to formulate (Almond & Verba, 2015). The relationship between political science and history is particularly noteworthy, with the potential for fruitful interdisciplinary dialogue, especially in analysing political processes. These interdisciplinary connections facilitate the exploration of novel research avenues and enhance the ability to concentrate knowledge and research efforts. Thus, political science borrowed many theories, concepts, methods, and techniques from different social sciences. For example, decision-making theory from the organisational field, structural-functional approach from sociology and anthropology, action theory from sociology, system analysis from communication sciences, etc., even new concepts like political culture, political socialisation, political communication, political development, etc, are being adopted. Hence, emphasis is on the study of community power structure. Therefore, this so-called behavioural revolution in social science and the growth of empirical inquiry into the issues of politics has given rise to the interdisciplinary approach in political science. Political science has benefited from and contributed to other disciplines, as exemplified by research on the evolution of cooperation (Axelrod, 2014). This interdisciplinary approach has led to innovations in hybrid research areas such as political psychology, political geography, and comparative politics (Dogan, 1998). The relationship between political science and other disciplines is characterised by mutual enrichment and cross-pollination of ideas.

## **Methods**

This study aims to explore the interdisciplinary nature of political science by examining its intersections with other social science disciplines such as sociology, economics, psychology, and geography. It seeks to understand how political science has evolved through intellectual exchanges with these fields, enriching its theoretical foundations and expanding the scope of its research and analysis.

The methodology involves a qualitative approach, utilising secondary sources, including scholarly publications, books, and articles, to construct a comprehensive concept. This approach allows for an in-depth exploration of established academic knowledge, enabling the



researcher to critically engage with various perspectives and interpretations relevant to the study. Data were collected through an extensive literature review, focusing on how political science incorporates theoretical frameworks, methodologies, and insights from these disciplines to analyse political phenomena. The review was conducted carefully to identify patterns of integration, thematic overlaps, and how these interdisciplinary connections shape the study of political behaviour, institutions, and policy processes. The analysis will interpret existing knowledge and synthesise findings to illustrate the collaborative nature of political science, providing a holistic understanding of its multidisciplinary integration without engaging in primary data collection. It will aim to demonstrate how political science benefits from cross-disciplinary inputs, highlighting the value of theoretical and methodological diversity in explaining complex political realities.

### **Result and discussion**

Political science is a fundamental discipline within the social sciences, dedicated to studying government, political processes, institutions, and behaviour. It is significant because of its comprehensive exploration of politics, which Aristotle called "The Master Science". Political science integrates knowledge and methodologies from diverse disciplines, fostering a synthetic approach to understanding political phenomena. As a social science, political science focuses specifically on the political aspects of human social life. It draws upon insights and methodologies from history, sociology, anthropology, economics, geography, demography, psychology, and public health. This interdisciplinary approach enriches political science by incorporating a range of theories and methods, thereby enhancing its capacity to analyse and explain complex political dynamics. The subsequent sections briefly discuss the interdisciplinary relationships between political science and other social sciences.

#### **Political science and history**

Political scientists often rely on historical analysis to understand the development of political systems, institutions, and ideologies. Historical context is crucial for understanding the evolution of political structures and behaviours.

Political science is closely related to history; the relationship between the two is so deep that some scholars like Freeman observe that "History is past Politics and Politics is present History." Another political thinker, Seeley, writes, "History without Political Science has no fruit. Political Science without History has no root." For instance, we know about the philosophy of liberalism, realism or Marxism, the theory of justice or the rule of law, and philosophers Plato or Aristotle, Machiavelli or Montesquieu from History. All political institutions- state, government, legislature, executive, judiciary, and others—have a history of evolution behind them. Without studying their History, Political Science cannot their contemporary nature, position, and relations among these. Hence, political science always uses history to study political institutions, i.e., the history of their emergence and gradual evolution into their contemporary forms, powers, functions, mutual relations, and relative positions (Barnes, 1926).



Political science has contributed to history in many profound ways. Politics creates history through the actions of states, governments, political parties, leaders, and diplomats. In modern times, political leaders have significantly influenced the course of history through their policies, decisions, and leadership. For instance, Mahatma Gandhi's leadership altered the trajectory of Indian history by leading the movement against British imperialism. Similarly, B.P. Koirala's liberal ideology played a key role in fostering liberal democracy in Nepal. In the Nepali context, major political movements—such as the struggle against the Rana regime, the Maoist movement, the People's Movement II, and the peace process—have all shaped the nation's historical narrative. These events demonstrate how political actions not only create but also define history.

Political science adds meaning, depth, and context, making history more compelling and fulfilling. While political science draws only from selected historical facts—those related to state, governance, and power—history, in turn, depends on political science to interpret the political dimensions of those events. Without such analysis, history risks becoming a mere chronicle of episodes and developments. Therefore, the study of political institutions and their evolution forms a rich and essential part of historical inquiry, showing how deeply the two disciplines are interwoven (Ghai, n.d.).

The relationship between political science and history has evolved with periods of separation and convergence. Behavioralism in political science led to a divorce between the disciplines, particularly in the United States. There is now recognition of their mutual benefits. History enriches political science by providing material, demonstrating links between past and present, testing theories, analysing concepts, and offering lessons (Kavanagh, 1991). Political scientists can assist historians with sampling issues and statistical methodology, while historians help political scientists understand improbable events (McLean, 2010). The disciplines share common roots in the Anglo-American tradition and the early American research university (Zelizer, 2004).

### **Political science and public administration**

Public administration and political science are closely linked, especially concerning policy implementation, public management, and administrative behaviour. Public administration focuses on the organisational aspects and practical implementation of policies, which is essential for political scientists studying policy outcomes and government efficiency.

Public administration is crucial in modern society, encompassing various aspects of governance and public service delivery (Theodoulou & Roy, 2016). It involves managing public sector organisations, implementing government programs, and addressing contemporary challenges such as privatisation and surveillance (Kehs, 2022). The field has deep philosophical roots, drawing from ancient Greek philosophy to modern strands, which inform public governance and management practices (Ongaro, 2017). Public administration fundamentally concerns relationships with people and communities, requiring effective leadership and practical skills (Kehs, 2022). Comparative studies of public administration systems in different countries, mainly Europe, reveal both convergence and persistence of



distinct administrative traditions (Kuhlmann & Wollmann, 2014). Understanding public administration is essential for various professionals, including planners and policymakers, as it provides insights into responsible governance and delivering essential public services (Kehs, 2022).

The relationship between political science (PS) and public administration (PA) has been complex and evolving. Historically intertwined, the two fields have experienced periods of convergence and divergence (Khodr, 2005; Guy, 2003). While PA emerged from PS, it has developed into a distinct, multidisciplinary field focused on applied research, whereas PS emphasises theoretical knowledge and basic research (Bauer, 2018). The separation was formalised in 1939 when PA established its professional organisation (Guy, 2003). Despite their differences, the two disciplines maintain a close, competitive relationship based on a division of labour, with interactions varying depending on specific topics and scholarly trends (Bauer, 2018). Both fields contribute to developing techniques fostering social cohesion (Khodr, 2005). The interface between PS and PA offers the most significant potential for mutual advancement, with PA potentially benefiting from PS's scientific rigour (Whicker et al., 1993).

### **Political science and law**

Law is a complex concept defined in various ways throughout history. It is generally understood as a system of rules and guidelines enforced by social institutions to govern behaviour (Aityan, 2022). Some scholars conceptualise law in terms of normative rules and the apparatus for legal action (Johnson, 1977), while others view it as necessary relations arising from the nature of things or as the command of the sovereign. Legal philosophers have debated whether law should be equated with morals or justice or if it can exist independently of these concepts (Cheyette, 1970). The quest for a definition of "law" was once central to jurisprudence, with some proposing that law is what courts do or will do. However, modern approaches, such as Hart's, resist characterising jurisprudence as merely defining "law," focusing instead on the law as a broader concept (Soper, 1984).

The relationship between law and political science is complex and multifaceted. Law and politics are interdependent, with the law sometimes serving as a goal, means, or obstacle for political interests (Cerar, 2009). The integration of political science and law has evolved from early formalistic approaches to more empirical and interdisciplinary methods (Spitzer, 2013). Political science and law integration has increased in recent years, with political scientists contributing valuable insights to legal scholarship. The subfield of Public Law offers essential contributions to understanding judicial decision-making and the broader political context of legal systems. Exposing law students to political science methodologies can enhance their analytical skills and expand their knowledge (Martin & Hazelton, 2012). Researchers are now challenged to develop multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary, and transdisciplinary models to advance both fields. This integration can benefit legal scholars, lawyers, and law students by expanding their knowledge and methodological approaches (Martin & Hazelton, 2012).



### **Political science and international relations**

International Relations (IR) is a discipline that studies interactions between states and other global actors. Definitions of IR vary, ranging from focusing on diplomatic-strategic relations and issues of war and peace to examining cross-border transactions and global phenomena (Brown & Brown, 1997). The field emerged as a distinct academic discipline after World War II, initially dominated by realist approaches emphasising state sovereignty and security issues. More recent scholarship has explored the interplay between domestic and international factors and the relationship between security and economic concerns (Halliday, 1990). Some scholars argue that IR can be viewed as a form of religion, drawing parallels with political theology and identifying anthropomorphism in the personification of states as a defining characteristic (Luoma-aho, 2009). The discipline aims to analyse the world community in transition, examining how political and social systems are influenced by factors beyond their borders (Palmer & Perkins, 1954; Halliday, 1990).

The relationship between political science and international relations has been a subject of academic interest, with both disciplines developing in parallel despite their overlapping focus on political relations (Lebedeva, 2021). Historically, international relations have been dominated by realism, emphasising inter-state relations and security issues (Halliday, 1990). However, recent scholarship has sought to bridge the gap between these fields, exploring the interaction between domestic and international factors (Halliday, 1990; Schmidt, 2002). This convergence is driven by the transformation of global political organisations and the blurring of domestic and foreign policy boundaries (Lebedeva, 2021). Efforts to reunite political theory and international relations theory have focused on normative theory, democratic theory, and identity studies (Schmidt, 2002). Contemporary approaches advocate for understanding international relations through the lens of global political authority organisation, emphasising its role in addressing macro-conditions that influence local politics (Reus-Smit, 2020). This integration is crucial for comprehending pressing global concerns and the complex interplay of political, economic, and cultural factors.

### **Political science and sociology**

The relationship between political science and sociology is complex and interdependent, with political sociology bridging the two disciplines. Political sociology focuses on state-society relations, particularly within the nation-state context (Botelho, 2014). Political science offers valuable insights into political sociology, including models of rational choice, analysis of non-linear social systems, and perspectives on strategic interactions among institutional actors (Hicks, 1995). The interdisciplinary nature of these fields extends to public administration, with politics studying how governments make decisions and distribute social values. Political science and sociology have influenced public policy development, with different national schools emerging in the United States, Germany, and France. In Central European countries like Slovakia, the Czech Republic, and Poland, the interaction between these disciplines has evolved since the 1990s following the establishment of democratic social orders (Chanthamith et al., 2019).



There is a clear distinction between the two fields, and it emphasises interdisciplinary connections. Sociology focuses on social structures, while political science examines political structures. Integrating social and political factors through political sociology can provide a more comprehensive analysis of complex social and political systems, enhancing understanding overall (Sartori, 1969). Both political scientists and sociologists study human society in depth. Sociology is a fundamental social science that studies human life in depth and seeks to discover the basics of life. Political science, on the other hand, is interested in one's personal political life and behaviour. Sociology is the science of society, and political science is primarily concerned with the political state and government.

Political science is a branch of sociology that deals with various organisations, political behaviour, and the government of human society. The subject of political science falls within the realm of sociology. According to Morris Ginsberg 'Historically, Sociology has its main roots in politics and philosophy of history'. As the centre of political science in its early stage, the state is a society (Magadh Mahila College, n.d.). Political scientists often draw on sociological theories and methods to study social structures, group dynamics, and political behaviour. Sociology helps political scientists understand how social factors shape political attitudes and actions. According to Garner (1962), although political science and sociology are predominantly distinct disciplines, they share a mutually beneficial relationship. Sociology benefits from political science's insights into state organisation and activities, while political science gains an understanding from sociology regarding the origins of political authority and societal control mechanisms. Political scientists should possess sociological knowledge; conversely, sociologists should be knowledgeable about political science principles.

### **Political science and anthropology**

Anthropology is the scientific study of humanity, encompassing human behaviour, biology, cultures, societies, and linguistics in present and past contexts (Nedumaran & Suresh, 2022; Maquet, 1979). It combines elements of arts and science, focusing on groups rather than individuals (Siyag, 2019). The field is divided into several branches, including cultural anthropology, which explores cultural meanings and norms; social anthropology, which examines behavioural patterns; linguistic anthropology, which investigates language's impact on social behaviour; and biological or physical anthropology, which studies human biological development. Archaeological anthropology, or 'past anthropology,' examines human activities through physical evidence (Nedumaran & Suresh, 2022). Anthropology's broad scope encompasses man in general, including human biology, psychology, and philosophical speculation about the subjective foundations of experience and knowledge (Lenhardt, 1972). The development of anthropology is considered crucial for human adaptation and survival in the face of environmental challenges (Siyag, 2019).

Political science has evolved through a process of hybridisation, with innovations occurring at the intersections of different fields (Dogan, 1998). The relationship between political science and anthropology has been a subject of scholarly interest, with both disciplines offering valuable insights into political processes. Friedrich and Horwitz (1968) argue that political



scientists studying developing areas must utilise anthropological research to be comprehensively empirical. Sathyamurthy (1973) suggests that political scientists should use social anthropology's theoretical and methodological contributions to better understand political development in new states. Cooke (2014) reviews a work that advocates for a more anthropological approach to political science, suggesting that policy studies resemble magic more than science. The review emphasises the potential benefits of interdisciplinary dialogue between political science and anthropology for developing less ethnocentric perspectives and more rigorous conceptual frameworks.

### **Political science and economics**

Economics is often described as the most politically influential social science. A deep and intertwined relationship exists between economics and politics, spanning centuries of intellectual evolution. Historically rooted in Aristotle's distinction between household management (economics) and state governance (politics), the connection between these fields has evolved significantly. Influenced by thinkers like Adam Smith, early economists emphasised applying economic principles to public policy, challenging mercantilist views, and advocating for individual freedom and market mechanisms as drivers of national wealth. This shift laid the basis for modern political economy, which seeks to understand how economic policies impact societal welfare and vice versa (Hadley, 1899).

Their has evolved significantly over the past 50 years, with four significant interdisciplinary developments influencing both fields: the Public Choice Approach, Governance of the Commons, New Institutional Economics, and Behavioural Approaches (Ostrom, 2012). Defining the relationship between political science and economics is complex, as views differ on whether political or economic factors take precedence, or if they function independently-politics focusing on power, and economics on wealth. Political science examines governance through law, while economics centers on property and material needs. Although property depends on legal recognition, economic rules also shape political regimes, making their relationship intertwined. Historically, political philosophy encompassed economics, but modern thinkers like Locke emphasized property as the basis for civil society, giving rise to economics as a separate discipline. Still, the source argues that political philosophy ultimately retains a central role in understanding both fields (Cropsey, 1960).

This relationship can be viewed through classic and modern frameworks, with the latter focusing on analysing politics using economic methodologies (Dadgar, 2020). Integrating political factors into economic analysis has become increasingly important as political institutions, strategies, and ideologies shape economic outcomes and decision-making processes (Namazov, 2023). However, empirical research on the relationship between political democracy and economic growth has yielded inconclusive results. Multiple studies have found varying effects of democracy on economic growth, with some favouring democracy, others favouring authoritarianism, and some finding no significant relationship (Leblang, 1997). Thus, there is a complex and multifaceted interaction between politics and economics.



### **Political science and demography**

Political science and demography are interconnected through political demography, which studies how political systems and population changes influence each other. Population change occurs through birth, death, migration, and shifts in age structure. Since 1950, global demographic change has accelerated, with fertility rates in Asia, Africa, and Latin America halving, and mortality rates dropping sharply. These shifts have impacted politics and the economy—longer lifespans and smaller families have increased investments in education and health, and lower fertility has expanded women's roles beyond child-rearing. A growing working-age population can boost the economy, but youth bulges and ageing populations pose challenges for labor markets and social welfare. Political and economic developments also affect population trends, as changing values and public policies shape decisions on family size and demographic behaviour.

Political science is deeply intertwined with demography, viewing population processes as integral elements of political dynamics and transformation (Goldstone, 1991). The field of political demography, in particular, explores the political consequences of structural population change (Lu, 2024; Goldstone et al. 2012; Weiner & Teitelbaum, 2001). Integrating demography significantly strengthens political sociology research by shedding light on the critical implications of demographic shifts for core political phenomena such as conflict, social movements, electoral politics, political institutions, and democratisation. This integration complements existing political science perspectives emphasising institutional, elite, or structural economic conditions (Weber, 2013, Bloom et al., 2003). The term "political demography" was coined by a prominent political scientist, Myron Weiner, who defined the field as studying population size, composition, and distribution of government and politics, specifically concerning the political consequences of population change. While political science has also investigated the political determinants of population change, often termed demographic engineering or population policies, political demography primarily focuses on understanding the political consequences (Weiner 1971, Teitelbaum 2021). The growing interdisciplinary interest in political demography spans political science and international relations, fostering collaboration and cross-pollination of ideas (Sciubba, 2021). Ultimately, demographic factors serve as a critical structural force driving political change, and their impact is a key area of study within political science (Lu, 2024).

### **Political science and psychology**

Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and behavior, exploring questions such as what creativity, consciousness, prejudice, and discrimination are. It relies on the scientific method, where researchers propose hypotheses within the framework of scientific theories and test them through observation and experimentation. As an empirical science, psychology focuses on measurable phenomena and avoids speculation about things that cannot be observed or quantified. While rooted in biology due to its concern with living beings, psychology also considers the social aspects of behavior, making it both a natural and a social science. Once a



branch of philosophy, psychology became a distinct academic discipline in the late 1800s (Plotnik et al., 1989).

Political science uses ideas from psychology, especially bounded rationality, to understand how people make decisions in politics. This approach shows that behavior is better explained by specific goals and context rather than general ideas of rational thinking. Psychology helps political science make more accurate predictions by focusing on real human thinking and limits (Simon, 1985).

The relationship between political science and psychology has been significant for nearly a century (Merriam, 1924). This intersection explores how psychological factors influence political decision-making and behaviour (Houghton, 2014). Political psychology challenges rational choice theory assumptions, offering empirical demonstrations of how psychological processes affect political phenomena and vice versa (Schildkraut, 2004). The field is inherently multidisciplinary, integrating insights from psychology, political science, and sociology to explain how political events shape people across international borders. It addresses foundational concepts like ideology, public opinion, and contemporary democratic challenges, such as authoritarianism, racism, and populism. The growing interest in political psychology among scholars has led to increased research and publications to define the subfield's conceptual and methodological structure (Osborne et al., 2022).

### **Political science and health**

Health is a state of complete emotional, mental, and physical well-being. Healthcare exists to help people stay well in these critical areas of life. In a broader sense, political science is associated with studying the state, government, and politics. In 1979, the Committee for Health Politics was formed to publish a quarterly *Health Politics Bulletin*. Political science may participate in the macro level interaction between health seeker and health care provider. They focus on health seekers' access to health facilities. They can measure the effectiveness of the health workers by using data related to morbidity and mortality. However, it is criticised that there is a lack of radical political critiques of the health service system. Political scientists need to pay more attention to health hazards (Weissert & Weissert, 2019).

Health politics has evolved through three key eras. Before the 1960s, political interest in public health was minimal, with little research or system-level analysis. From 1960 to 1976, health insurance became a central focus, and political scientists began shaping models to study health policies. After 1976, the era of government regulation emerged, introducing a holistic, systems-based approach where political science played a vital interdisciplinary role in analyzing and shaping health care governance. Although political science lacks a long history in health research, political scientists have increasingly engaged in public health, with many universities now offering health-focused courses within political science departments. They act as social advocates, analyzing government financing, resource distribution, and health policies—especially in response to the global challenge of rising health costs—and contribute valuable insights into the rationality of such policies and human resource planning in the health sector (Adler & Stone, 1980; Dhakal, 2019).



The relationship between political science and public health is an important yet understudied area of research. Political factors can significantly impact health policies and outcomes, but this connection is often overlooked in public health literature (Navarro, 2008). Collaborative research between political scientists and public health experts can provide valuable insights into population health and healthy public policies (Gagnon et al., 2017). Studies have shown that democracy is positively associated with individual health, while political instability negatively affects health outcomes (Klomp & de Haan, 2009).

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the unequal impacts of health crises on marginalised groups, emphasising the need for political science perspectives in understanding these disparities. To advance this field, researchers should focus on unpacking complex political institutions and their internal dynamics rather than relying solely on aggregate-level comparisons (Lynch et al., 2022). Integrating political science into public health research can lead to a more comprehensive understanding of health determinants and policy effectiveness.

### **Political science and geography**

Geography is a social science that examines the physical environment, while political science studies states, institutions, and governmental processes. Both disciplines fall under the umbrella of social sciences, which explore human society. Political geography connects these fields by examining how politics interacts with the physical environment. Political geography studies how political entities, institutions, or processes relate to their physical surroundings, including communication systems, demographics, and resource distribution (Robert & Edward, 1991).

Geography plays a significant role in enhancing our understanding of certain aspects of Political Science. This is because human habitation on Earth occurs within specific geographical contexts, where geographical factors often shape state policies. Factors such as land area, population distribution, natural resources, soil quality, and agricultural potential frequently influence decisions related to state creation, revenue sharing, and government agricultural policies (Mohammed, 2023). As an essential part of the state, geographical conditions significantly affect politics, the national life of the people, and their political institutions. Montesquieu states that geography influences the freedom of government and people. An island nation may readily become a moral power, whereas a country with rich natural resources may become more potent in world politics. Germany's geographical position, in the centre of Europe and without natural boundaries, is a convincing reason for her to remain a great military power. People in warmer climates favour authoritarian regimes, whereas those in colder climates tend to adopt democratic norms. For instance, contemporary examples from North and South Africa illustrate this trend. Northern African countries like Libya and Morocco predominantly support authoritarian rule, while Southern African countries such as South Africa, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe lean towards democracy (Burgess, 1933). Nepal is a Himalayan landlocked nation between emerging superpowers India and China. Nepal's geographic location makes it a geostrategic place for world powers India, China, and the USA. Geographical conditions always affect the determination of national policies and, to some



extent, the character of political institutions. Bryce has suitably said that in any country, physical conditions and inherited institutions affect a nation's political institutions, giving its government a distinctive character.

The relationship between political science and geography is complex and multifaceted. Geography significantly influences politics, as a nation's geographical features shape its self-perception and worldview (Young, 1987). Political geography, emerging from the spatial turn in social sciences, has profound implications for political science, offering new perspectives on established research areas such as contextual effects on political behaviour and governance studies (Ethington & McDaniel, 2007). However, the connections between human geography and political science theories still need to be developed. Political geographers could benefit from political science theories, particularly those concerning decision-making under uncertainty and the distribution of space as a public good (Hall, 1974). Despite attempts to incorporate geographic factors into political science, there remains a divide between the disciplines, partly due to the equation of spatial analysis with geography and the neglect of the place tradition prominent in contemporary geography (O'Loughlin, 2000). This disconnect hinders effective communication between geography and international relations.

#### **Political science and culture**

The term *culture* originates from a French word that traces its roots back to the Latin "*colere*," which signifies tending to the Earth, cultivating, and nurturing. Culture encompasses a specific group's distinctive attributes and knowledge, including religion, language, social customs, behaviours, beliefs, capabilities, music, and artistic expressions (Spencer-Oatey, 2012).

The concept of political culture has been widely used in political science since the 1960s (Almond & Verba, 2015). The concept of political culture has been a subject of significant scholarly debate and evolution. It encompasses attitudes, norms, and feelings that give meaning to political processes (Formisano, 2001). While some argue for cultural determinism, others emphasise rational decision-making; Wiarda proposes a middle ground, suggesting that behaviour is influenced by both culture and rationality (Pervez, 2016). Political science was initially slow to adopt the concept of culture, as it had long used similar ideas like national character and constitutional theory (Pye, 1972).

Culture and politics are interrelated with each other. The culture of any society affects politics. The culture of every society has a remarkable influence on the politics of that society. A person who has grown up in a culture tries to lead politics from the values of the same culture, even when he later enters into politics. Due to the influence of culture in politics, a new discipline called political culture has come up. Political culture is a society's deeply rooted norms, values, and beliefs about political power and legitimacy. One can study that country's culture or society to see what any political culture is like. Political culture means how people view the political system and believe in its legitimacy. American political scientist Lucian Pye defined political culture as the composite of fundamental values, feelings, and knowledge that underlie the political process. Hence, the building blocks of political culture are the citizens' beliefs, opinions, and emotions toward their form of government (Pervez, 2016).



Political science and culture are interrelated in a complex and multifaceted manner. The concept of political culture bridges the study of individual psychological factors and the analysis of collective political behaviour. It suggests that political systems are influenced by the underlying psychological orientations of their citizens, which are shaped by the socialisation process within a particular cultural context (Pye, 1972).

Political culture is studied at many levels, from the national to the local, and among different social groups like political leaders and workers. It helps us understand how shared beliefs and values affect political behaviour and how well governments work (Almond & Verba, 2015).

Almond and Verba (2015) identify three types of political culture: parochial (low awareness of government), subject (citizens as passive recipients), and participant (active civic engagement). They argue that stable democracies reflect a "civic culture," blending all three, especially strong participation balanced by acceptance of authority. Britain and the U.S. are examples of this ideal mix (Berezin et al., 2020).

A country's governance system will be well-functioning if it fosters a participatory political culture. Conversely, politics is prone to dysfunction in societies marked by a culture of corruption and nepotism.

## **Conclusion**

Political science exemplifies and thrives on the interdisciplinary nature of social sciences by synthesising insights from various disciplines, including history, sociology, anthropology, economics, demography, psychology, geography, and public health.

Political science thrives on its interdisciplinary nature, drawing and synthesising insights from history, sociology, anthropology, economics, demography, psychology, geography, and public health. This comprehensive, multidisciplinary approach significantly enhances the study of political phenomena, providing a rich tapestry of theoretical frameworks and methodological tools that foster more profound understanding and analysis. By employing interdisciplinary research methodologies, political science explores how governments work and how people behave politically. It also examines the more profound effects these have on society and their roots in history. This holistic perspective equips political scientists with the capacity to conduct thorough examinations of complex political dynamics, thereby advancing theoretical insights and practical applications in governance and policy-making. Hence, working across different fields is essential to understanding political systems and their deep interaction within different societies.

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