

## **Power and Hubris Behaviour: Neural Basis and Attenuating Factors**

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Over a century after Lord Acton uttered in a letter that "Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely." (1887), it remains a social, economic and political priority to understand how power affects those who possess it. The present research contributes to such an understanding.

The project will: 1) establish whether the mere acquisition of power is pleasurable, and activates neural systems in the brain associated with pleasure and motivation, which could have additive properties and lead to self-serving behaviour and 2) examine how the social context can facilitate or attenuate the effects of power on the individual. Here the project will examine how properties of subordinate groups affect power holders.

The project will use interdisciplinary knowledge from social psychology, neuroscience and organizational behaviour to better understand the ways power affects the individual, and how corruption, poor social attention and hubris can be avoided. Power will be experimentally manipulated in the laboratory or assessed in natural work contexts. An fMRI study, as well as behavioural and field studies will be conducted.