

Department of Politics

DISSERTATION PROPOSAL FORM

Please upload this form to the Moodle site for your dissertation, which you can find at moodle.bbk.ac.uk.

Name:

E-mail address:

MSc or MRes programme: MRes

Full-time or part-time? Part-time

Title of proposed dissertation Conceptions of council housing amongst
Conservative councillors

Description of subject area

The Conservative Party's has apparently conflicted attitudes towards council housing. The introduction of Right-to-Buy by the Thatcher government drastically reduced the proportion of households living in it. Yet many of those homes which were sold had initially been built under post-war Conservative governments. In 2018, Theresa May's government lifted the borrowing cap imposed on the ability of Council's to borrow through their Housing Revenue Accounts to build new homes.

Given that housing is an area in which local authorities play a significant role and that the councillors who provide their political leadership are generally drawn from amongst party members, housing is an area in which the party grassroots play an unusually direct role. Therefore, it is important to understand perceptions of council housing amongst the Conservative Party grassroots.

What scholarly literature will you be examining?

Bale, Tim (2016) [*The Conservative Party from Thatcher to Cameron*](#), 2nd edition (Polity)

Bale, Tim, Webb, Paul and Poletti, Monica (2019) [*Footsoldiers: Political Party Membership in the 21st Century*](#) (Abingdon: Routledge).

Bochel, Hugh and Powell, Martin (2016) *The Coalition Government and Social Policy*

Restructuring the Welfare State

Timmins, Nicholas (2020) *The Five Giants: A Biography of the Welfare State*

What primary research material might you use?

1. Depth interviews with Conservative councillors who hold Cabinet/Executive portfolios for housing.
2. [ONS data on housing starts/completions by local authority](#) to test the hypothesis that Conservative led authorities become less distinctive relative to other authorities in the period between Theresa May becoming Prime Minister and the change of policy on the HRA borrowing cap.

Have you identified or spoken with a potential supervisor? If so, who? No