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Exploring key concepts in International Politics through the medium of LEGO

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A key element of first year teaching in the Department of International Politics is to introduce students to key concepts in the field of international relations.

Students often find this challenging: many have not studied politics previously, and they can struggle to grasp abstract ideas and discuss them critically.

To support students in this respect, I have designed seminars that use LEGO Serious Play (LSP) as a method for exploring key concepts in International Relations. This presentation will summarise the LSP approach, and how I used this in seminar teaching to explore concepts of statehood, sovereignty, and the international system.

I will highlight the strengths of this approach for student learning, but also the specific constraints of this approach and ideas for further developing the use of LSP in teaching in the future.

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