

Foucault: Power

Sociology

Power as productive and dispersed rather than held, and what discipline does.

A deliberate break with power as a thing someone owns.

The claims

Power is exercised, not possessed.

It is everywhere, not only in the state.

It produces subjects, not just prohibitions.

Knowledge and power imply one another.

Where there is power there is resistance.

Discourse sets what can be said as true.

The mechanisms

Surveillance: visibility as a trap.

The panopticon: possible watching is enough.

Normalisation against a measured average.

The examination: records that make a case.

Biopower: managing populations as populations.

Governmentality: conduct steered at a distance.

Educational reference. Criticised for making resistance hard to locate and for treating historical evidence selectively.