

The Latest News

The British Government Discovers Social Networks



FEATURED GNEWS NEWS

POLITICS

By Alexander Baron



8
SHARES

You gotta hand it to the British Government, the people at the top sure know how to waste money. A new study commissioned from the London School of Economics has come out with a staggering conclusion. In 50 pages, author [Abigail McKnight concludes](#), in a nutshell, that parents who are better off financially provide better for their offspring, not in purely financial terms but also career-wise, and that one of the ways they do this is by networking.

There are of course numerous exceptions to this, having a rich Daddy does not guarantee anyone will be a success in business or anything else, and by the same token many people have risen from poverty to positions of great wealth and influence. Great songwriters from [Irving Berlin](#) to Paul McCartney have often come from humble beginnings, while it is probably best not to name those

who have moved in the opposite direction. Should anyone really be surprised about the existence of informal networks?

A few real life examples will suffice; David Cameron is the nineteenth Prime Minister of England to attend Eton. Boris Johnson was sacked from his first job, working for the *Times* newspaper, something one might have thought would have tainted him for the rest of his life, instead he moved seamlessly into a similar one, with the rival *Daily Telegraph*, then edited the *Spectator*; in 2004, he was sacked from the Conservative Party front bench, and is now Mayor of London. Granted he has done a reasonable job of that, but take away the blond mop and the charisma, and what is left?

Another person who owes much to the networks is Vicky Pryce, who ended up in gaol after an attempt to ruin her ex-husband Chris Huhne backfired in spectacular fashion. A lot of people come out of prison to find themselves unemployable, even destitute, but not her, not only was she able to publish a book about her non-experiences, she is now back flying high including providing **commentary for the BBC**. Meanwhile, her co-conspirator, Constance Briscoe, has **lost everything** and will be lucky to find a job as a solicitor's clerk, but unlike Pryce, she rose from humble stock on her own abilities.

Much of what is often called *racism* or viewed as conspiracy can be explained as social networks, people who know each other working together, whether it is a songwriter inviting a particular musician to play on his latest album, or as in the case of **Lutfur Rahman**, someone who obtains a position of power inviting people he knows to work with him, be it in business or in Rahman's case, politics.

Networks exist everywhere, they can be both malign and beneficial, even in the supposed meritocracy in which we are now said to live.