1. **The Strategic Relational Approach**
   - What defines this approach?
   - What is the real meaning of “strategic selectivity” of structures? How is this connected to agency? (Janaina, Benny)
   - Why does Jessop prefer it? (Tamara)
   - How would you operationalize it? (Pete)

2. **Definition/concept of the state.**
   - *The state and power*: “the state cannot exercise power” but rather “its powers ...are activated”; Jessop’s critique of the use of the term “power” (Griffin, Loren, Kris)
   - *State public/private boundaries*: how are these drawn? How does politicization/depoliticization extend/roll back boundaries? State and civil society: how connected/differentiated? (Sarah)
   - *Legitimacy/state-idea* – the state “acting in the name of common interest or general will...” (Courtney, Tamara)
   - *Capitalist state vs state in capitalist society* (Youbin); the formal account of the state vs “historic and agent-centered account” of the state (Masoud)
   - *Generality of the four elements*: Jessop’s definition (p.49) doesn’t seem appropriate for many states in the world, e.g. in Africa. Is it really a concept of the modern state, or just the western state? (Kaan)
   - *Levels of the state*: How should be think of U.S. states, towns, cities, etc. with respect to Jessop’s definition of the state? How does this relate to “Stateness” as a variable? (Aaron)

3. **States and parties**
   - Do parties mediate between states and civil society or the state mediate between civil society and parties? (Kurt)
   - Analysis of mass media and parties in modern democratic states. (Samina)

4. **Methodological issue**
   - Real abstraction vs formal abstraction (Griffin)