

“Bringing Science to Politics”



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William Shakespeare

There is
nothing
either good
or bad
but thinking
makes it so.

Is Politics a Science?

Some argue that politics is an art not a science

Others argue that politics is an art and a science

There has been a divorce
between science
& politics

Divorce Decree



Drive

Interests & Ideologies

vs.

Facts & Evidence

Context

Context Dependent

vs.

Context In Dependent

Output

**Pragmatic & policy
oriented**

vs.

Academic

Timeframe

Long Term

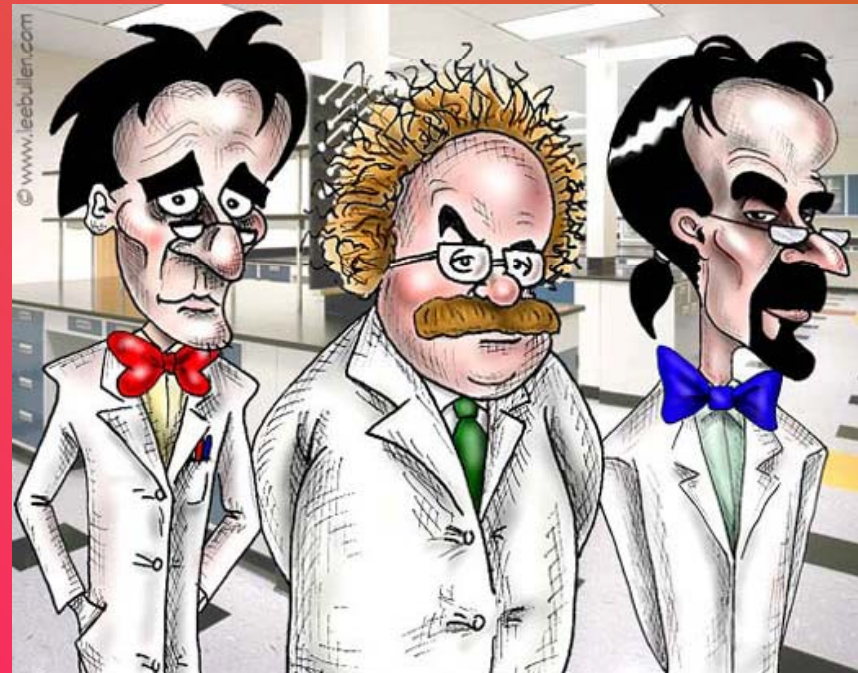
vs.

Timely & ad - hoc

Then why isn't Science that appealing for politicians?

Politicians are usually reluctant to hear scientists because:

- ❑ Science might reveal policy deficiencies
- ❑ Sometimes politicizing science is difficult



Recently, politicians are beginning to re-consider scientific thinking in their daily routine

- ❑ Policy issues are becoming more complex.
- ❑ The necessity of creating the image of a “scientific government”

More importantly
because:

Science = Knowledge

&

Knowledge = Power



A Changing Era

- To cleanly separate science from politics is impossible.
- And since Politics is unavoidable, incorporating scientific information into the decision-making machinery became indispensable.
- Finally, science advisory panels never deal purely with science. They are convened to provide guidance either on policy or on scientific information that is directly relevant to policy.

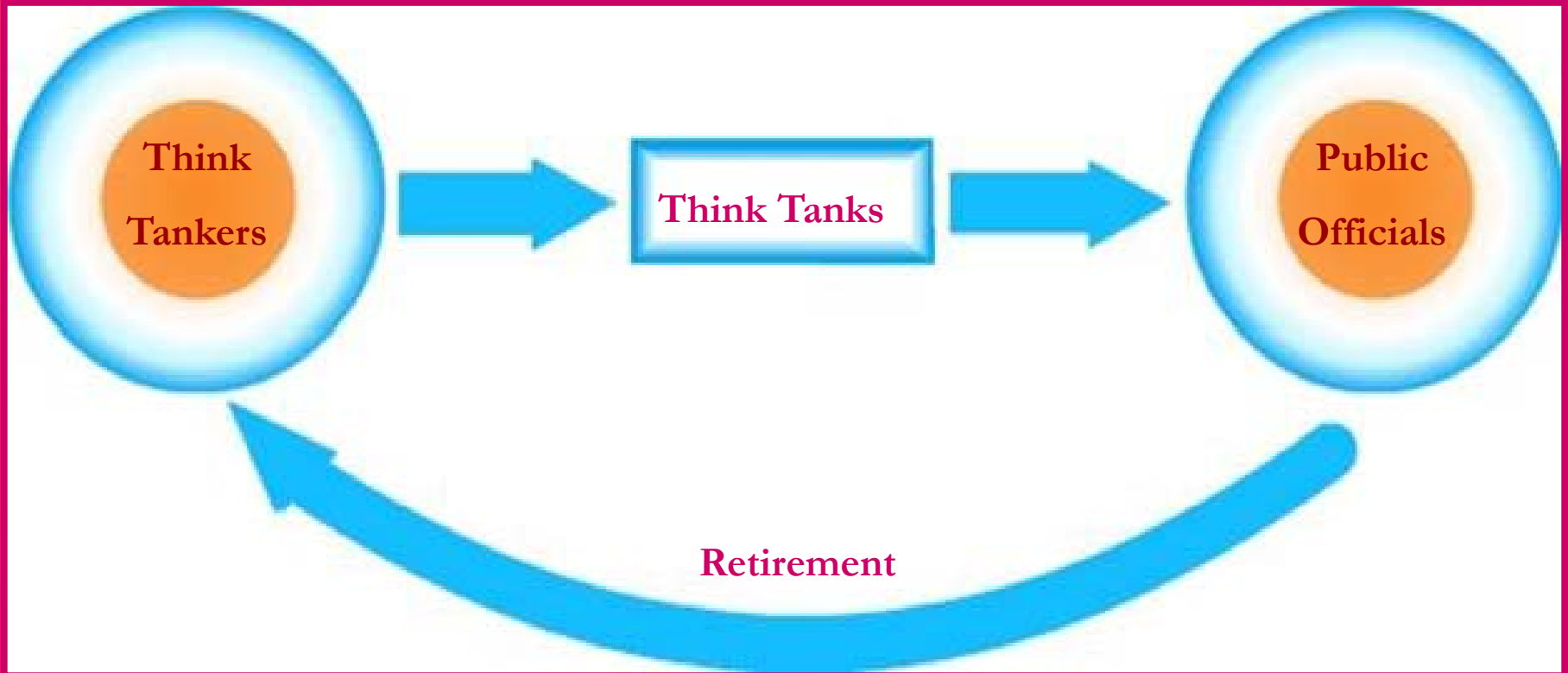


How to restore marriage



Integrating scientific thinking into the design of politics
through
Intermediary entities or knowledge brokers
(advisory boards, think tanks,...etc)

*Public officials move to act as think tankers after their retirement on one hand,
and think tankers are often nominated for official posts on another hand*



We need to keep in mind

- Although politics should be perceived as a science , yet it didn't reach the same level of accuracy reached by natural sciences (imperfect)
- Development in studying politics as science (from normative and deductive approaches to empirical approaches and procedural definitions)





An alert

**Scientification of politics is necessary but
politicization of science is not**

"Once you begin letting politics get in the way of choosing scientists, you corrupt the very process designed to get you good advice."

Can we study political
phenomena in a scientific
manner



Case Studies on Political Phenomena



*Designing a Scientific
Political Discourse*

Rationale

- Political discourse has been often ideologically derived in a value free manner.
- In many cases , evidence reveals that political discourse is often in consistent with policy making and may even result in catastrophes.
- This leads to a loss of trust between citizens and their leaders.
- Politicians change and rotate , thus discourse must be institutionalized and not personalized



The Council....A built in think tank for:



European Presidency (June 2008 –
January 2009)



Higher Commissioner for
CFSP

Discourse Items

- Outfit
- Photo making
- Communication medium
- Political message
- Format of political message (article, speech,...)
- Timing of political message
- Message Delivery (redundancy, pauses, improvisation, body language, tone and pitch, eye contact,...etc)

Sarkouzi

- Too Many talking
- Statements must include initiatives, quotations, mottos,.....etc
- Outlook should incorporate body language to prove Power , energy and charisma
- “ C’est la France” should be the essence of the statement



Solana

- Less talking
- Diplomacy Wordings, facts and numbers
- More LISTENING
- Outlook should reflect maturity and experience



Is political discourse in our countries institutionalized or personalized?





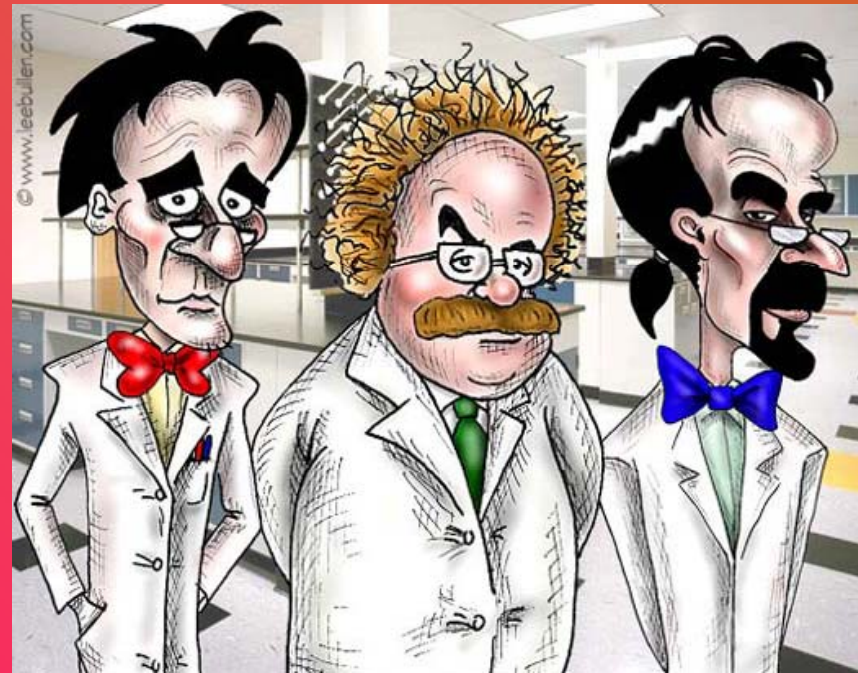
Consider

- How can we restore marriage between science & politics?
- How can both disciplines learn from each other?
- What are the implications that could result from applying scientific thinking in policy making?
- What are the obstacles that might impede the application of scientific thinking in this context?

What do politicians want from
Scientists

&

What do scientists want from
politicians?



An aerial photograph of the Great Pyramids of Giza in Egypt. The pyramids are arranged in a row, with the largest one in the foreground. The surrounding landscape is a mix of desert and urban development, with a city visible in the background under a clear sky.

Thank You for Your Attention

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