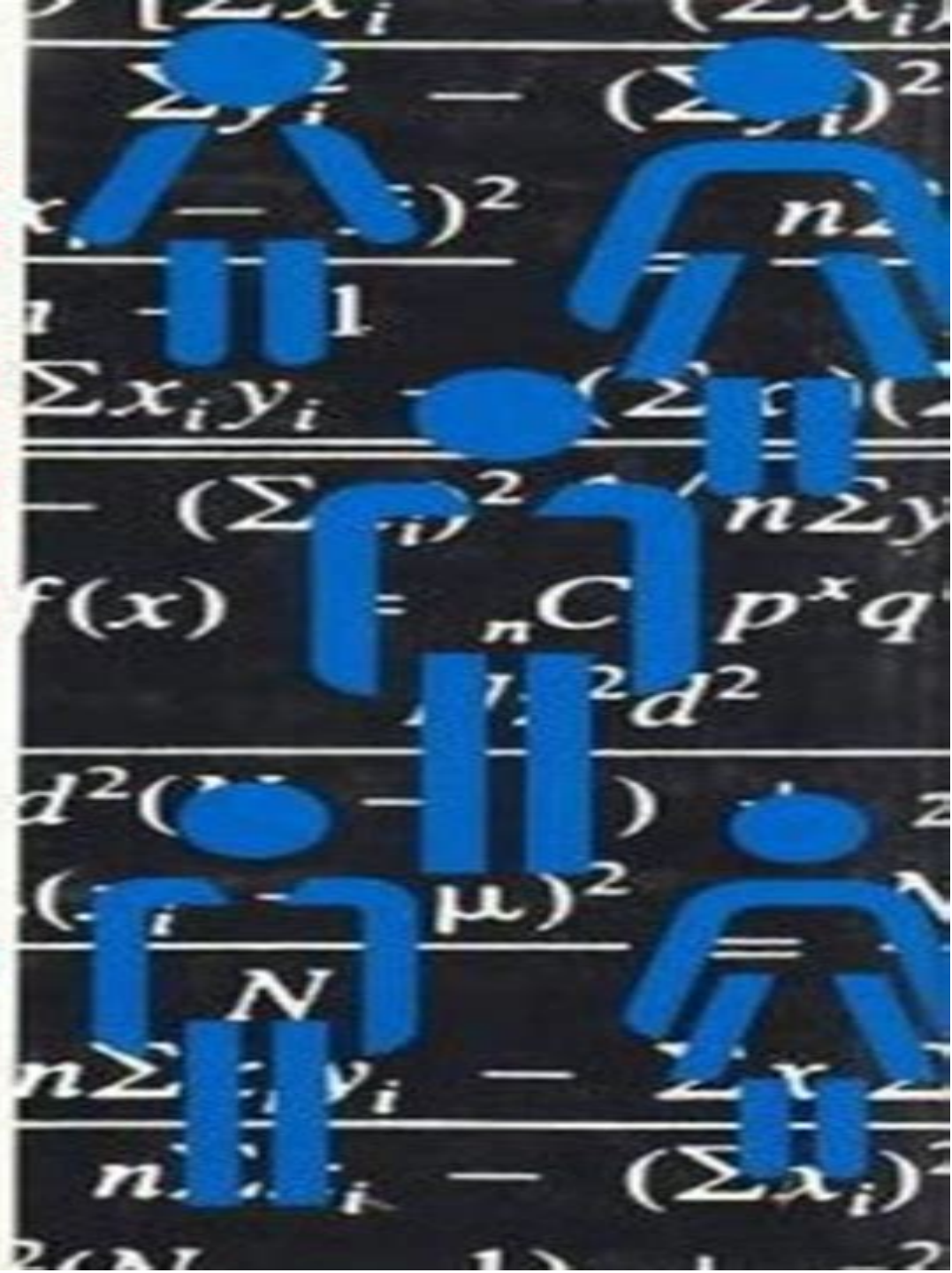


The Myth of Scientific Public Policy

Robert Formaini



The Myth Of Scientific Public Policy

Thomas Szasz



The Myth Of Scientific Public Policy:

The Myth of Scientific Public Policy Robert Formaini, 1990 Series from jacket Includes bibliographical references p 113 125 and index The Myth of Scientific Literacy Morris Herbert Shamos, 1995 Shamos argues that a meaningful scientific literacy cannot be achieved in the first place and the attempt is a misuse of human resources on a grand scale He is skeptical about forecasts of critical shortfalls in scientific manpower and about the motives behind crash programs to get more young people into the science pipeline The Ivory Tower of Babel David Demers, 2011 Mainstream social science has come under fierce criticism in recent decades for failing to have more impact on public policy Critics say the social sciences are incapable of generating knowledge that can solve social problems Others contend that partisan politics and university administrations are the problem Politicians are more concerned about special interests than scientific research and administrators care more about scholarly publications than solving social problems Are the social sciences failing to live up to their promises Have they outlived their usefulness Have they become an Ivory Tower of Babel Like the Babylonians who built the infamous Tower of Babel social scientists for the past two centuries have been building a tower of sorts only this time it s composed of knowledge rather than bricks The primary goal of these scholars anthropologists communication scholars economists political scientists sociologists and social psychologists has been to solve problems of social integration The Babylonian tower was designed in part to unite people to one geographical area Similarly social scientists see their tower of knowledge as a means for solving social problems such as poverty crime drug abuse inequality unemployment abuse of power that alienate people and groups from modern society The Babylonians failed because of divine intervention according to the Bible The social scientists aren t finished building their tower But according to critics the results so far look less like a tower of knowledge for solving social problems than an Ivory Tower of Babel one in which social scientists routinely dispute each other s theories and data and even uncontested or well supported findings rarely influence public policy Disputes over the nature of truth and knowledge are so commonplace in the social sciences that many scholars believe a social science which uses methods from the natural sciences is incapable of generating knowledge that can solve social problems This book examines the history and philosophy of the social sciences and theoretical and empirical research on the impact of social science Suggestions are offered at the end for enhancing the impact of the social sciences A number of scientific articles and books have been written about the impact or lack thereof of the social sciences on public policy but none has been written specifically to appeal to both academics and a broader market composed of the general public and students in both undergraduate and graduate level courses The author takes the reader on a journey inside one of the best kept secrets in higher education that much if not most of the research conducted in the social sciences has very little impact on public policy or on solving social problems Are taxpayers getting their money s worth **Basic Methods of Policy Analysis and Planning** Carl Patton, David Sawicki, Jennifer Clark, 2015-08-26 Updated in its 3rd edition Basic Methods of Policy Analysis

and Planning presents quickly applied methods for analyzing and resolving planning and policy issues at state regional and urban levels Divided into two parts Methods which presents quick methods in nine chapters and is organized around the steps in the policy analysis process and Cases which presents seven policy cases ranging in degree of complexity the text provides readers with the resources they need for effective policy planning and analysis Quantitative and qualitative methods are systematically combined to address policy dilemmas and urban planning problems Readers and analysts utilizing this text gain comprehensive skills and background needed to impact public policy

The Illusion of Psychotherapy William Epstein,2018-04-17 In The Illusion of Psychotherapy William Epstein asserts that psychotherapy is probably ineffective and possibly harmful He maintains that there is no credible clinical evidence that psychotherapy is effective in handling personal or social problems or that it is more effective than other modes of treatment The theories that underpin clinical practice remain speculative and their influence over social policy are more ideological than scientific A skeptical public and its government would be better served Epstein says by credible evidence of outcomes His analysis focuses on whether psychotherapy is effective against a variety of unwanted behaviors such as drug addiction and depression The nation s social problems are due to the inadequacies of its core social institutions families communities education and jobs Social problems emerge because many people are brought up in deficient families live in dangerous communities lack education and jobs and have few or no routes out of poverty Poor people are exposed to unrelenting risks to their physical and mental health It is possible to remedy most deficiencies through human services that compensate for these failed social institutions This position is inevitably unpopular in psychotherapeutic circles and in light of current political preferences since it requires massive new resources and extensive redistribution of existing resources The extent of society s problems reflects the degree to which deficits in basic social institutions have been tolerated Basic services have been lacking while psychotherapy diverts our impulse to address poverty into ineffective strategies In a challenging conclusion Epstein urges society to solve its problems by confronting the reality implied by the failure of psy chotherapy s minhnal interventions to acknowledge that more is necessary to resolve social need This leads to general theoretical concerns about theory as such The Illusion of Psychotherapy will be compelling reading for psychologists psychotherapists social scientists and policymakers

Trust in Knowledge Management and Systems in Organizations Maija-Leena Huotari,Mirja Iivonen,2004-01-01 This work aims at tying trust to knowledge management KM It highlights the complexity of the invisible phenomenon of trust challenged by the global economy and explores the multidisciplinary nature of the concepts of trust and KM

The Agricultural Scientific Enterprise Lawrence M Busch,William B Lacy,2019-07-11 The State Agricultural Experiment Stations have played a fundamental role in the development of science and agriculture in the United States From their inception in 1887 the experiment stations have attempted to wed basic research with practical application and have helped institutionalize a utilitarian approach to agricultural science Agricultural research and the new technology it helped to generate were major

factors in the transformation of U S agriculture into a high technology mechanized science based industry Moreover the experiment stations as the first large scale publicly supported scientific research institutions in the United States have also long been models for scientific institutions both here and abroad Compiled for the 1987 centennial of the State Agricultural Experiment Stations this volume critically examines past performance current issues and future directions for public agricultural research in the United States Each of the authors drawn from disciplines as diverse as philosophy and agronomy focuses on a central concern for the scientific enterprise Issues include priority setting maintaining and promoting disciplinary and interdisciplinary effectiveness supporting higher education for agriculture and efficacious dissemination of research findings By setting these issues in their historical and philosophical context the volume suggests new approaches for meeting the continuing challenge to achieve equity efficiency sustainability flexibility conservation and consistency with other objectives of U S society

Cruel Compassion Thomas Szasz,1998-02-01 Cruel Compassion is the capstone of Thomas Szasz s critique of psychiatric practices Reexamining psychiatric interventions from a cultural historical and political economic perspective Szasz demonstrates that the main problem that faces mental health policy makers today is adult dependency Millions of Americans diagnosed as mentally ill are drugged and confined by doctors for noncriminal conduct go legally unpunished for the crimes they commit and are supported by the state not because they are sick but because they are unproductive and unwanted Obsessed with the twin beliefs that misbehavior is a medical disorder and that the duty of the state is to protect adults from themselves we have replaced criminal punitive sentences with civil therapeutic programs The result is the relentless loss of individual liberty erosion of personal responsibility and destruction of the security of persons and property symptoms of the transformation of a Constitutional Republic into a Therapeutic State unconstrained by the rule of law Szasz shows convincingly that not until we separate therapy from coercion much as the founders separated theology from coercion shall we be able to get a handle on our seemingly intractable psychiatric and social problems No contemporary thinker has done more than Thomas Szasz to expose the myths and misconceptions surrounding insanity and the practice of psychiatry Now in Cruel Compassion he gives us a sobering look at some of our most cherished notions about our humane treatment of society s unwanted and perhaps more importantly about ourselves as a compassionate and democratic people

The Elgar Companion to Austrian Economics P. J. Boettke,1998-01-01 The book can be recommended both to those who know something about Austrian economics already and to those who know nothing David Simpson Economic Affairs Mr Boettke s very readable compendium consists of short articles by mostly young scholars selected to illustrate the diversity and fecundity of modern Austrian economics Michael Prowse The Financial Times The Elgar Companion to Austrian Economics is a major new reference work which highlights the common ground between all the branches of the school while demonstrating the breadth and diversity within it The Companion reflects the many areas where Austrian economists have made contributions including technical economics methodology of the social sciences political theory and political science

This book includes contributions from an international group of scholars whose work demonstrates a basic similarity and interest in questions which have historically been associated with the Austrian approach to economics although many of the contributors would not consider themselves to be strictly of this school The distinguished team of contributors commissioned by the editor includes K D Hoover I M Kirzner A Klamer D Lavoie C K Rowley M Rizzo M Rutherford R E Wagner U Witt L Yeager Each entry is fully referenced and includes suggestions for further readings on the topic The Companion will be the standard reference work for all those engaged in the field of Austrian Economics It not only introduces students to the Austrian school but also serves as an important research tool for scholars working within the Austrian tradition

Transforming Power Aynsley Kellow, 1996 Originally published in 1996 this book is an exploration and analysis of the electricity industry in the context of uncertainty following the energy crisis of the 1970s and concern over the greenhouse effect Few industries demand a similar level of foresight and planning or such vast amounts of capital The book examines five well known Australian Canadian and New Zealand cases and closely analyses the ways in which various agencies have sought ends to serve the means at their disposal Electricity has long been regarded as a natural monopoly but questions of privatisation regulation and government control are increasingly prevalent The book explores these issues and also notes the experiences of other countries in its analysis of institutional reform Aynsley Kellow argues for different approaches to electricity planning which offer much by way of economic savings and minimisation of environmental problems

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The Myth Of Scientific Public Policy Introduction

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