

WP

THE TOOLS OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

Every body of knowledge consists, to a lesser or greater degree, depending upon the character of its data and upon the social environment, of:

- Natural Science*
- a. "You want to cure your ulcers"
 - b. "Drink raw cabbage juice & cure ulcers."
 - c. How do you know a and b?
 - d. How do you relate b to a?

1. A moral element
2. A factual element
3. A methodological element.
4. An applied element

- Social Science*
- a. "You want S to win an election"
 - b. "S cannot win an election"
 - c. How do you know a & b?
 - d. How do you change b to conform to a?

Tools for the moral element

Moral training in preferences, (a vast profusion of possibilities, some of which are pro-scientific, others anti-scientific. E.g. pro-scientific = agreement that deductions from axioms should be followed; belief that you know what is good for others; belief in influencing others.)

Axiology. (Medieval works good here)

e.g. Search to know God by the canons of science. Various moral teachings are causes but perhaps not tools of pol. sci. or all science. E.g. Role study of Amer. scientists.

Tools for the factual element

Epistemology (Values analysis)

Deductive and Inductive Logic - incl. model constructions

Training in observation (live and documentary)

e.g. "The bureaucrat as a peculiar personality"
Model Bureaucratic Condit's social evolution model of 35 type
How to read a book of life.

Tools for the methodological element

Operational logic: theory of definitions, and propositions. -----including some statistics (e.g. Key, A Primer of Statistics for Political Scientists)

Study design (cf. Group Dynamics work in psychology)

Testing of propositions: In history and in other areas where data gathering can be more controlled.

Tools for the applied element

Synthetic logic

Logical fitting of intellectual designs to a practical field

- transfer of factual equivalencies

- transfer of moral fittings

(N.B. assumptions that moral drives are at a certain level of force in the actors.)