

Problems And Methods In The Study Of Politics

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Prominent scholars of politics offer original discussions exploring what political science is and how it should be studied. The study of politics seems endlessly beset by debates about method. At the core of these debates is a single unifying concern: should political scientists view themselves primarily as scientists, developing ever more sophisticated tools and studying only those phenomena to which such tools may fruitfully be applied? Or should they instead try to illuminate the large, complicated, untidy problems thrown up in the world, even if the chance to offer definitive explanations is low? Is there necessarily a tension between these two endeavours? Are some domains of political inquiry more amenable to the building up of reliable, scientific knowledge than others, and if so, how should we deploy our efforts? In this book, some of the world's most prominent students of politics offer original discussions of these pressing questions, eschewing narrow methodological diatribes to explore what political science is and how political scientists should aspire to do their work. EAN/ISBN : 9780511227219 Publisher(s): Cambridge University Press Format: ePub/PDF Author(s): Shapiro, Ian - Smith, Rogers M. - Masoud, Tarek E.

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