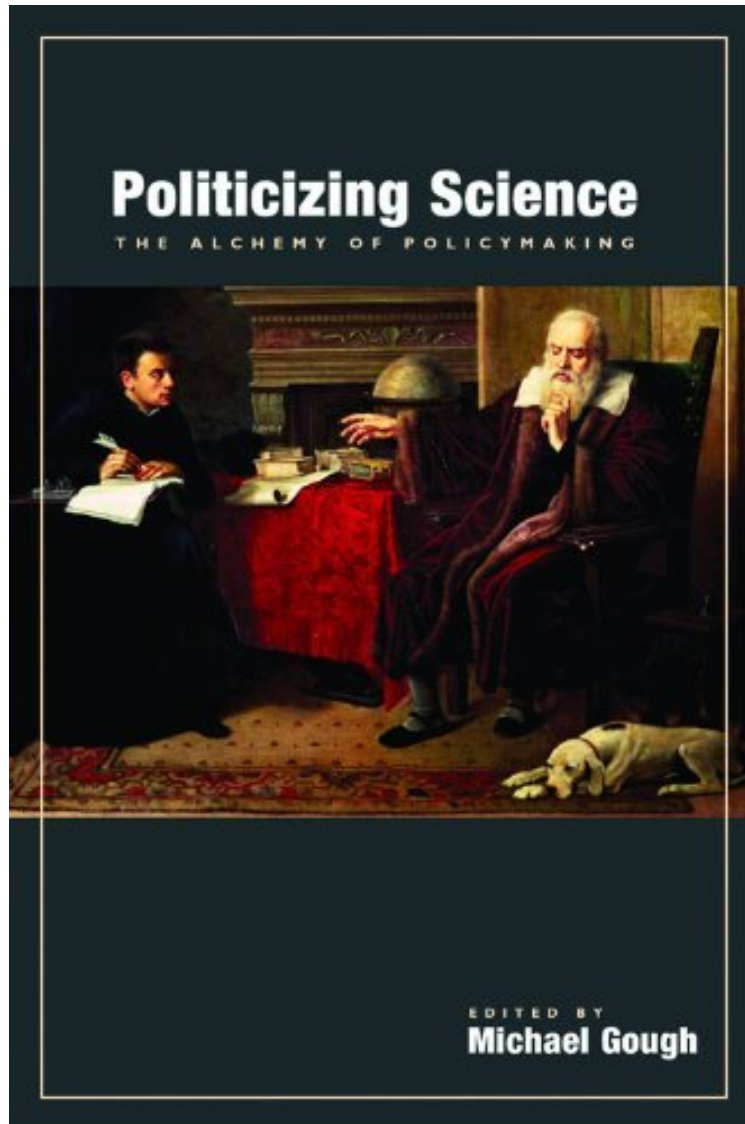


[Download] Politicizing Science: The Alchemy of Policymaking (HOOVER INST PRESS PUBLICATION)

## Politicizing Science: The Alchemy of Policymaking (HOOVER INST PRESS PUBLICATION)

*Michael Gough*

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**Michael Gough : Politicizing Science: The Alchemy of Policymaking (HOOVER INST PRESS PUBLICATION)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Politicizing Science: The Alchemy of Policymaking (HOOVER INST PRESS PUBLICATION):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Really great to give to relatives interested in philosophy of science By Brianne Really great to give to relatives interested in philosophy of science, as well as those who don't seem to understand the scientific method, and who get their news from sensationalist sources. Heck, it's a great gift for

anyone, especially young adults! 2 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Eh...perhaps, but more rigor please

By J. L. Williams

Gough's edited volume does have something important to say: science is an inherently human endeavor and as such, is subject to the vagaries of use and abuse that are typical of the political process. Science has a very large part to play in government risk assessment activities, and consumers of that knowledge should have a healthy respect for its use. Unfortunately, with the exception of the piece by Safe and that of Ames and Gold, the book falls into the same trap it accuses its opponents of falling into. And herein lies the problem; knowledge, in the form of science, is inherently neutral - it is a tool for use by everyone. The selected case studies for this volume argue that science shows that those on the left are wrong and those on the right are correct. But the case study authors, with the noted exceptions, really show us that they are just as guilty of mis-use of science as are the villains they pillory. Facts are drawn from less-than-scientifically-rigorous sources; arguments are passionate and lacking in context or background information; and conclusions contain little in the way of recommended ways forward. If you agree that government, liberals, and people who think pollution is a negative are bad for the country and should just keep their traps shut, then this book is for you. Your ideas will not be challenged. However, if you are interested in experiencing a less-grating, better-cited, and more thorough (and actual) analysis of the full picture of how science is and is not abused by both political parties, I recommend including this in your library but only as one of many sources.

10 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Surveying the political workings of society

By Midwest Book Review

Expertly compiled and edited by Michael Gough (an expert on Risk Assessment and Environmental Policy at the George Marshall Institute, Washington, D.C.), *Politicizing Science: The Alchemy Of Policy Making* is an impressive collection of insightful and informative essays by a diverse variety of learned authors concerning the intersection of politics and science in modern-day America. From the political repercussions of what science had to say of Agent Orange and Dioxin, to the attempted political suppression of science in the Revelle-Gore issue, and more, *Politicizing Science* is a crucial and very highly recommended body of perspectives for surveying the political workings of society and the impact they have upon the latest science research results.

In this book leading scientists share their experiences and observations of developing and testing hypotheses, offering insights on the dangers of manipulating science for political gain. It describes how politicization--whether by misapplication, overextension, or outright manipulation of the scientific record to advance particular policy agendas--imposes expenditures of money, missed opportunities, and burdens on the economy.

From the Publisher

Politics and science make strange bedfellows. In politics, perceptions are reality and facts are negotiable. The competing interests, conflicting objectives, and trade-offs of political negotiations often lend themselves to bending the truth and selectively interpreting facts to shape outcomes. In science, facts are reality. This collection examines the conflicts that arise when politics and science converge. In *Politicizing Science*, eleven leading scientists describe the politicization--through misapplication or overemphasis of results that favor a political decision or through outright manipulation--of scientific findings and deliberations to advance policy agendas. They show how the consequences of politicization are inflicted on the public, including the diversion of money and research efforts from worthwhile scientific endeavors, the costs of unnecessary regulations, and the losses of useful products--while increased power and prestige flow to those who manipulate science. The authors of three essays describe government diversions of scientific research and the interpretation of scientific findings away from where the evidence leads and toward directions deemed politically desirable. Three more contributions analyze the expensive and extensive efforts devoted to altering images of risk in order to establish linkages in the public's mind between deleterious human health effects and various areas of scientific research. Two essays examine the workings and results of consensus advisory panels and conclude that their recommendations are often based on far-from-certain science and driven by social and political dynamics that substitute group cohesion in favor of independent, critical thinking. Authors of two essays describe the unfortunate results of application of the "precautionary principle," which generally requires proof of no risk before a new product is introduced or an existing product can be continued in use. A concluding essay describes the personal costs of opposing the politicization of science. Michael Gough, a biologist, has participated in science policy issues at the congressional Office of Technology Assessment, in Washington think tanks, and on various advisory panels. Contributors: Bruce Ames, Roger Bate, Bernard L. Cohen, Lois Swirsky Gold, William Happer, Joseph P. Martino, Patrick J. Michaels, Henry I. Miller, Robert Nilsson, Stephen Safe, S. Fred Singer