

# The Politics of Knowledge

## Why Education Research Does (or Does Not) Influence Education Policy

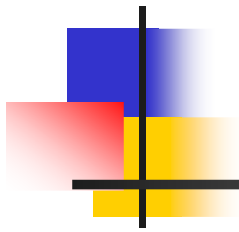
Frederick M. Hess

The American Enterprise Institute

May 21, 2007

The collected papers from this conference are available online  
at [www.aei.org/event1455](http://www.aei.org/event1455).

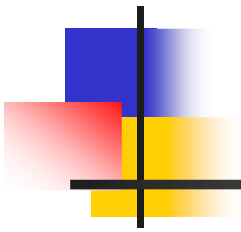
# The Evolving Relationship Between Researchers and Public Policy



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Jeffrey R. Henig  
Teachers College  
Columbia University

It was the best of times



It was the worst of times



# **New Technologies and the Dissemination of Research**

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- Speed: Get it out there NOW
- Erosion of Quality Control



## The Academy as Context

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- Shifting relationship between disciplinary and interdisciplinary programs
- Declining status of education schools
- “Hyper-pluralism”
  - Multiple and competing journals & subfields



# **Growth of the Corporate Sector**

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- A new market for education research
- New constraints on researchers



# Funding I

## Government

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- Affirmation of importance of high quality research
- But funding tight and constrained
  - For every \$100
    - less than \$2.25 goes to the social sciences,
    - less than 41 cents goes to research within the Department of Education.
  - Little for “basic” research
  - Contracts vs. grants



## **Funding II**

### **Foundations**

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- Funding for research limited
- Increased emphasis on supporting “mission”
- Dissemination & advocacy



## The Courts as Customer

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- Shift of action to the states
- Shift of focus from race to finance
- From equity to adequacy

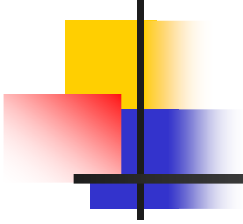


# Dynamics of Federalism

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- From the local level
  - Bureaucratic monopolization
  - Pragmatic politics
- To the nationalization of debate
  - Visible & Partisan
  - Research as Weapon

# Insert Big Conclusion Here



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