Making Social Science Matter presents an exciting new approach to the social and behavioral sciences. Instead of trying to emulate the natural sciences and create a kind of general theory, Bent Flyvbjerg argues that the strength of the social sciences lies in their rich, reflexive analysis of values and power – so essential to the social and economic development of society. Moving beyond the purely analytic or technical, Flyvbjerg compares the theoretical study of human activity with real-world situations and demonstrates how the social sciences can become relevant again in the modern world. Powerfully argued, with clear methodological guidelines and practical examples, Making Social Science Matter opens up a new future for the social sciences, freed from an inappropriate and misleading comparison with the natural sciences. Its empowering message will make it required reading for students and academics across the social and behavioral sciences.

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Making Social Science Matter
Why social inquiry fails and how it can succeed again

Bent Flyvbjerg
Translated by Steven Sampson
In memory of
Regina Flyvbjerg
née Krakauer
A mind that is stretched to a new idea never returns to its original dimension.

Oliver W. Holmes
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