Real Social Science presents a new, hands-on approach to social inquiry. The theoretical and methodological ideas behind the book, inspired by Aristotelian phronesis, represent an original perspective within the social sciences, and for the first time this volume gives readers a set of studies exemplifying what applied phronesis looks like in practice. The reflexive analysis of values and power gives new meaning to the impact of research on policy and practice. Real Social Science is a major step forward in a novel and thriving field of research. This book will benefit scholars, researchers, and students who want to make a difference in practice, not just in the academy. Its message will make it essential reading for students and academics across the social sciences.

Professor Bent Flyvbjerg is Founding Chair of Major Programme Management at Oxford University’s Saïd Business School and Director of the Oxford Centre for Major Programme Management. He works for better planning and management of megaprojects and cities, plus he writes about phronetic social science and case study research. Bent Flyvbjerg has served as adviser to the United Nations, the EU Commission, and government and companies in many countries.

Professor Todd Landman is Director of the Institute for Democracy and Conflict Resolution at the University of Essex. He is a political scientist and has carried out numerous projects on the analysis and synthesis of data and complex governmental information, as well as being the author of several books and articles.

Visiting Professor Sanford Schram has taught social theory and social policy at the Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research, Bryn Mawr College since 1997. He is an affiliate to the National Poverty Center at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. As well as being the author of ten books he sits on the editorial boards of a number of journals, including the Social Service Review.
Real Social Science

Applied Phronesis

Edited by

Bent Flyvbjerg
Oxford University

Todd Landman
University of Essex

Sanford Schram
Bryn Mawr College
# Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>List of figures</td>
<td>vii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>List of tables</td>
<td>viii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>List of contributors</td>
<td>ix</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acknowledgements</td>
<td>xi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Introduction: new directions in social science</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BENT FLYVBJERG, TODD LANDMAN AND SANFORD SCHRAM</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part I Theory and method</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Phronetic social science: an idea whose time has come</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SANFORD SCHRAM</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Phronesis and narrative analysis</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TODD LANDMAN</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 The feel for power games: everyday phronesis and social theory</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ARTHUR W. FRANK</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Phronesis, projects and power research</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>STEWART R. CLEGG AND TYRONE S. PITSIS</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part II Applied phronesis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Why mass media matter and how to work with them: phronesis and megaprojects</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BENT FLYVBJERG</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Power and conflict in collaborative research</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>COREY SHDAIMAH AND ROLAND STAHL</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
vi  Contents

8  Unsettling a settler society: film, phronesis and collaborative planning in small-town Canada  137
LEONIE SANDERCOCK AND GIOVANNI ATTILI

9  Phronesis and critical policy analysis: Heathrow’s ‘third runway’ and the politics of sustainable aviation in the United Kingdom  167
STEVEN GRIGGS AND DAVID HOWARTH

10 Amnesty in the age of accountability: Brazil in comparative context  204
TRICIA D. OLSEN, LEIGH A. PAYNE AND ANDREW G. REITER

11 Feminist phronesis and technologies of citizenship  228
VIRGINIA EUBANKS

12 Making the teaching of social justice matter  246
WILLIAM PAUL SIMMONS

13 Spatial phronesis: a case study in geosurveillance  264
RANU BASU

14 Important next steps in phronetic social science  285
BENT FLYVBJERG, TODD LANDMAN AND SANFORD SCHRAM

Index  298
Figures

10.1 Mechanisms employed, by year, 1970–2006 (all countries)  
page 208

10.2 Predicted probability that a country will adopt a TJ mechanism as GDP changes  
216

11.1 An excerpt of Joe’s story of the violation of his economic human right to education (OKOP 2010)  
233
# Tables

10.1 Effect of transitional justice on human rights and democracy  

13.1 Inner City Model School Initiative

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10.1</td>
<td>Effect of transitional justice on human rights and democracy</td>
<td>213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.1</td>
<td>Inner City Model School Initiative</td>
<td>276</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Contributors

GIOVANNI ATTILI, Department of Architecture and Urban Studies, University La Sapienza, Rome.

RANU BASU, Associate Professor, Department of Geography, York University, Ontario, Canada.

STEWART R. CLEGG, Professor, School of Management, University of Technology, Sydney, Australia.

VIRGINIA EUBANKS, Assistant Professor, State University of New York at Albany, New York.

BENT FLYVBJERG, First BT Professor and Founding Chair of Major Programme Management at Oxford University’s Said Business School and Director of the Oxford Centre for Major Programme Management, University of Oxford.

ARTHUR W. FRANK, Professor of Sociology, Department of Sociology, University of Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

STEVEN GRIGGS, Reader in Local Governance, Local Governance Research Unit, De Montfort University.

DAVID HOWARTH, Reader in Government, Co-Director, Centre for Theoretical Studies, Department of Government, University of Essex.

TODD LANDMAN, Professor of Government and Director, Institute for Democracy and Conflict Resolution, University of Essex.

TRICIA D. OLSEN, Assistant Professor of Business Ethics and Legal Studies, University of Denver.

LEIGH A. PAYNE, Professor of Sociology and Latin America, St Antony’s College, University of Oxford.
List of contributors

TYRONE S. PITSIS, Associate Professor of Strategy, Organization and Society, Newcastle University Business School, University of Newcastle.

ANDREW G. REITER, Assistant Professor of Politics, Mount Holyoke College, Massachusetts.

LEONIE SANDERCOCK, Professor, School of Community and Regional Planning, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada.

SANFORD SCHRAM, Visiting Professor, Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research, Bryn Mawr College, Pennsylvania.

COREY SHDAIMAH, Assistant Professor, School of Social Work, University of Maryland.

WILLIAM PAUL SIMMONS, Associate Professor of Political Science, Social and Behavioural Sciences, Arizona State University.

ROLAND STAHL, Assistant Professor, School of Social Work, Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts.
Acknowledgements

This volume represents the efforts of a good many people. The editors first want to acknowledge our contributors; without their excellent contributions there would be no Real Social Science. All our contributors took the project seriously, responded to our numerous requests punctually and never at any time posed any challenges to our project. We thank them all for their fine work. We would also like to acknowledge the support of the Political Science Department at Bryn Mawr College. We also want to acknowledge the excellent work of the folks at Cambridge University Press, not just for their meticulousness but also their cordiality. John Haslam, our editor, took a keen interest in our project and advised us effectively throughout. Gillian Dadd helped make sure our final manuscript was as good as it could be. Last, the editors want to thank each other. We learned that we make a good team.