Contents

List	List of tables and figures	
Not	tes on the editors and contributors	X
Acknowledgements		
	Introduction Gerry Stoker, B. Guy Peters and Jon Pierre	1
	Tensions over relevance	2
	Relevance: the standard lines of defence	5
	Three lines of vulnerability	7
	The developing argument of the book	11
PAI	RT I PERSPECTIVES ON RELEVANCE	
1	Challenging three blockages to relevance and political science: the obvious, the avoidable and the thorny Gerry Stoker	19
	Politics and evidence: a difficult relationship Incentive structures in academia limit the pursuit of relevance	20 23
	Doubts about the intellectual case for relevance	
	undermine its practice	26
	Designing a solution	30
	Conclusions	34
2	The relevance of relevance John Gerring	36
	Causal and descriptive knowledge	37
	The science of social science	39
	Engagement and objectivity	43
	Are there other possible foundations for social science?	45
	A pragmatic inquiry	46

3	Relevant to whom? Relevant for what? The role and public responsibility of the political analyst Colin Hay	50
	Introduction: relevance – divided by a common language? The private language of political science	51 53
	Relevance and rationality: between perestroika and glasnost? Relevance: deserved or attained?	55 58
	Diagnosing and resolving the crisis	61
4	The rediscovery of the political imagination Matthew Flinders	65
	The road(s) to irrelevance	67
	The political imagination	71
	A rallying cry to the university professors of politics	79
5	Guilty as charged? Human well-being and the unsung relevance of political science Bo Rothstein	84
	Variations of relevance	84
	Does democracy produce human well-being?	86
	State capacity, quality of government and human	
	well-being	88
	Poverty, state capacity and quality of government	91
	Does democracy generate political legitimacy?	92
	What does political science want to explain? Political theory, state capacity and quality of	93
	government	94
	Empirical measures of the relevance problem in political science	96
	Theory: why state capacity and quality of government generate human well-being	99
	Quality of government, social trust and human	
	well-being	100
	Conclusions: the seven sins depriving political science of its potential for being relevant to human	
	well-being	102

6	Why did nobody warn us? Political science and the crisis Graham Wilson	104
	Ideas Institutions Interests What did political science get right? Conclusion	106 108 110 115 115
PAl	RT II RELEVANCE: THE CONTRIBUTION OF SUB-DISCIPLINES AND DIVERSE APPROACH	ES
7	The relevance of the academic study of public policy Sarah Giest, Michael Howlett and Ishani Mukherjee	121
	Introduction: linking policy research to policy practice The contribution of political science: reconciling knowledge and power in public policy-making	121 122
	Concerns for relevance and the two-communities metaphor of policy knowledge utilization Moving beyond the two-communities model:	124
	knowledge brokerage Conclusion: research relevance in policy studies – an ongoing research agenda in political science	128 134
8	Why political theory matters Thom Brooks	136
	Introduction A chequered past? Political thought: creating an impact The challenge of demonstrating an impact Bright future	136 137 139 143 146
9	Constructivism and interpretive approaches: especially relevant or especially not? Craig Parsons	148
	Of gadflies and journalists: problems with postmodern and interpretivist claims to specific and direct relevance	152
	Constructivism as eye-opener for policy-makers and especially students Conclusion	161 168

10	Is comparative politics useful? If so, for what? B. Guy Peters	169
	Varieties of relevance The contributions of comparative politics Challenges to the relevance of comparative politics The limits of relevance in comparative politics Conclusion	171 172 180 186 188
11	Can political science address the puzzles of global governance? Jon Pierre	190
	Towards global governance? Enter the scholar: The political science contribution Discussion Conclusions	193 194 199 201
12	Maximizing the relevance of political science for public policy in the era of big data Helen Margetts	203
	Citizens, social media and big data Governments, digital technologies and the promise of big data for policy-making Big data challenges Maintaining relevance Public policy pay-offs	204 208 210 212 217
	Conclusion Gerry Stoker, B. Guy Peters and Jon Pierre	220
	The case for relevance Why is relevance difficult to deliver? A manifesto for relevance	220 222 22 <i>5</i>
Bibliography Index		22 <i>7</i> 263

List of tables and figures

Tabl	le	
1.1	Varieties of policy input provided by academics	22
Figu	res	
5.1	Healthy life years vs level of democracy	89
5.2	Healthy life years vs control of corruption	90