

CBA and the Need for Deliberation

- Reject the idea that CBA is value-neutral
 - Value assumptions embedded in welfare economics
 - The need to quantify costs and benefits may leave out things that matter
- Reject the idea that CBA is transparent
 - Desire to “speak truth to power”
 - Masks value assumptions in highly technical language and equations that most non-experts don’t understand

Potential Benefits of Deliberative Democracy

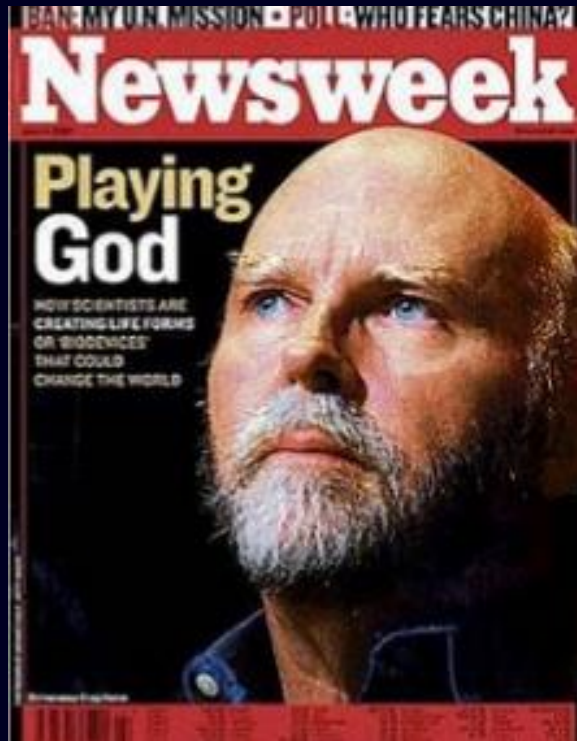
- A **public-spirited** way of thinking about social problems (as opposed to a self-interested view);
- Increased **clarification** and refinement of participants' positions on issues;
- A source of **new perspectives** about which values should be promoted.
 - “It’s good to have diversity of opinions when you make a complex decision characterized by uncertainty.”
- Greater **understanding** and more **tolerance** for opposing views;
- **Learning** about the consequences of implemented policies and the reasons for past failures; and
- Policy outcomes considered more **democratically legitimate** when decisions emerge from an open and inclusive deliberative process.

Should We Give Normative Weight to “Non-Rational” Preferences?

- Findings from Behavioral Economics Conflict with Traditional Assumptions in Welfare Economics
 - Loss Aversion
 - Hyperbolic Discounting
 - Aversion to Uncertainty
- Should we correct these preferences or give them normative weight?
 - Do people continue to hold such preferences after we explain them?

Representation and Power

- Who are the relevant stakeholders?
- The problem of deferring to experts
 - Power and inequality impede genuine discussion over important topics



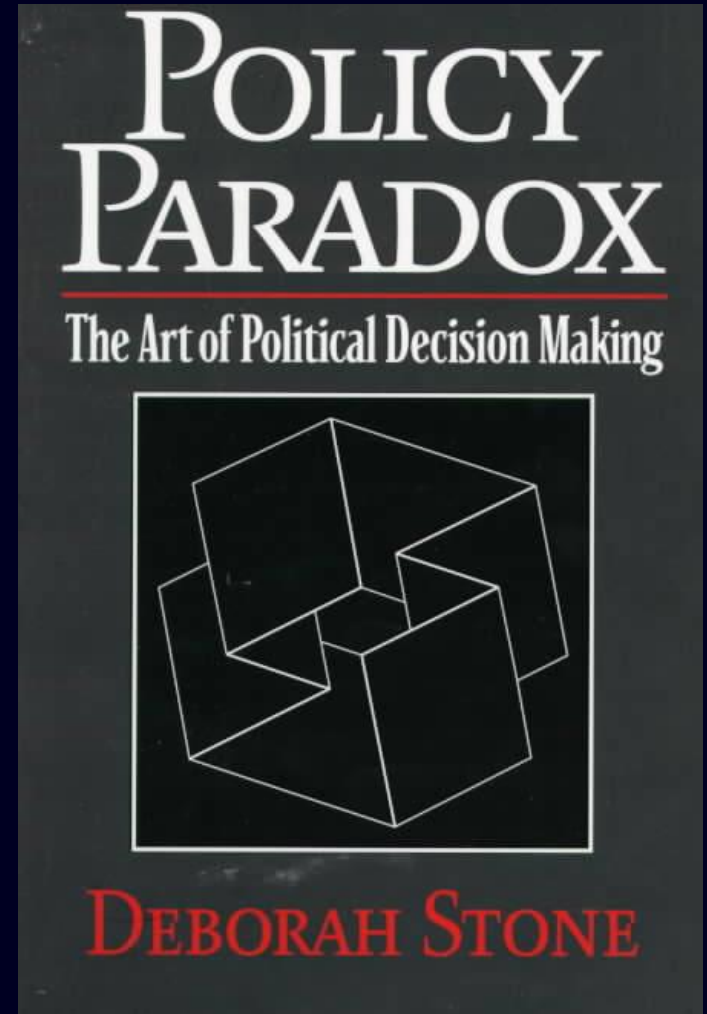
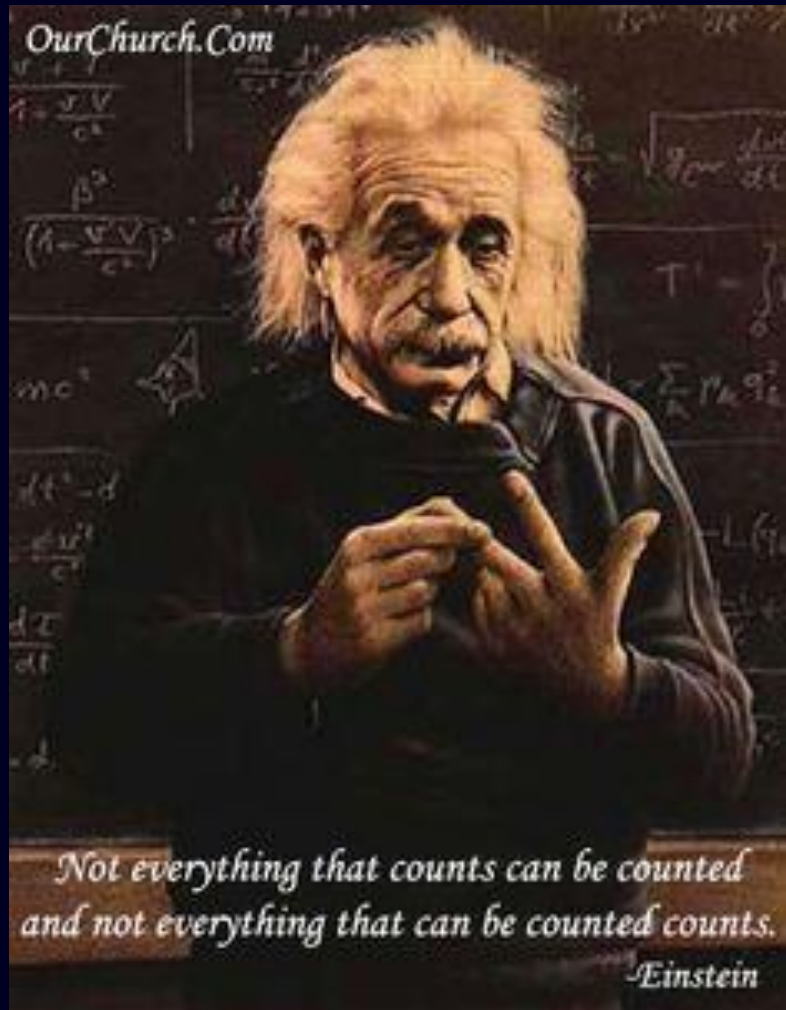
Representation and Power

- The use of “able” representatives
 - Example of from CT Medicaid Reform
 - But how representative are representatives?
 - Bono: “I represent a lot of people [in Africa] who have no voice at all . . . they haven’t asked me to represent them.”

The importance of reaching out to a broad range of voices

- Avoiding the “urgency narrative”
 - Rachel Grob and NBS: a subset of vocal advocates shaped a powerful discourse around NBS which equates NBS with saving lives -- the “urgency narrative.”
- Balancing the need for more voices and the value of regular interaction among small groups

CBA and Quantification



Making Room For Other Values?

- NICE separates *evaluation* and *appraisal*.
 - Appraisal designed to account for things that cannot be quantified.
 - NICE recognizes that formal economic evaluation is impenetrable to all but the expert, so they break down all the effects and costs so people can deliberate about trade-offs.