

New Archimedean Point for Intelligence and Foreign Policy - Reflexivity, Complexity & Culture

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The talk/paper will expose the narrow epistemological foundations of current embodiments in Intelligence and Foreign Policy that results in Intelligence Failure, Blowback and Policy Missteps. Through the lens of the seven "sins" of omission or commission underlying current institutionalized concepts of art/craft of intelligence and formation/execution of foreign policy, the paper will propose HOW reflexivity, complexity and culture can overcome our epistemic malaise.

The structure of the argument is based on case studies of METHODS for the use of mind resulting in a proposed TOOL KIT for establishing SUPPLY CHAINS of data, information, knowledge & wisdom (DIKW) that could rise to the mantle of "intelligence."

There is an epistemological (science of knowing) revolution brewing in the worlds of intelligence and foreign policy. Paradigms of the past of what constitutes intelligence and how we perceive and interact with the "Other." are now counter productive. A breed of "warriors of the mind" are basing change on a new relationship between epistemology and ecology systems – an ecology of minds. Instead of the touch stones of truth based on being outside the system (God, Form, Reason, Science), intelligence is now being redefined as fields of self organizing, information processing organisms/organizations. What will the new intelligence and foreign policy look like?

An Archimedean point (Punctum Archimedis") is a hypothetical perspective from which an observer can objectively perceive the subject of inquiry, with a view to the totality. The method of "removing oneself" from the object of study so that one can see it in relations to all other things has characterized Western thought from the Greeks, Medieval Europe, Western Enlightenment right up to the ways our intelligence agencies and foreign policy is conducted.

The expression comes from Archimedes, who claimed that he could lift the Earth off its foundation if he were given a place to stand, one solid point, and a long enough lever. The talk/paper criticizes that there could be a fixed point from which we form the totality of meaning. If there is no fixed point (God, The Word, Truth or fixed perspective of Sciences/Observer), how do we know? What is modern intelligence? What is an intelligent method to interact with the "Other"?