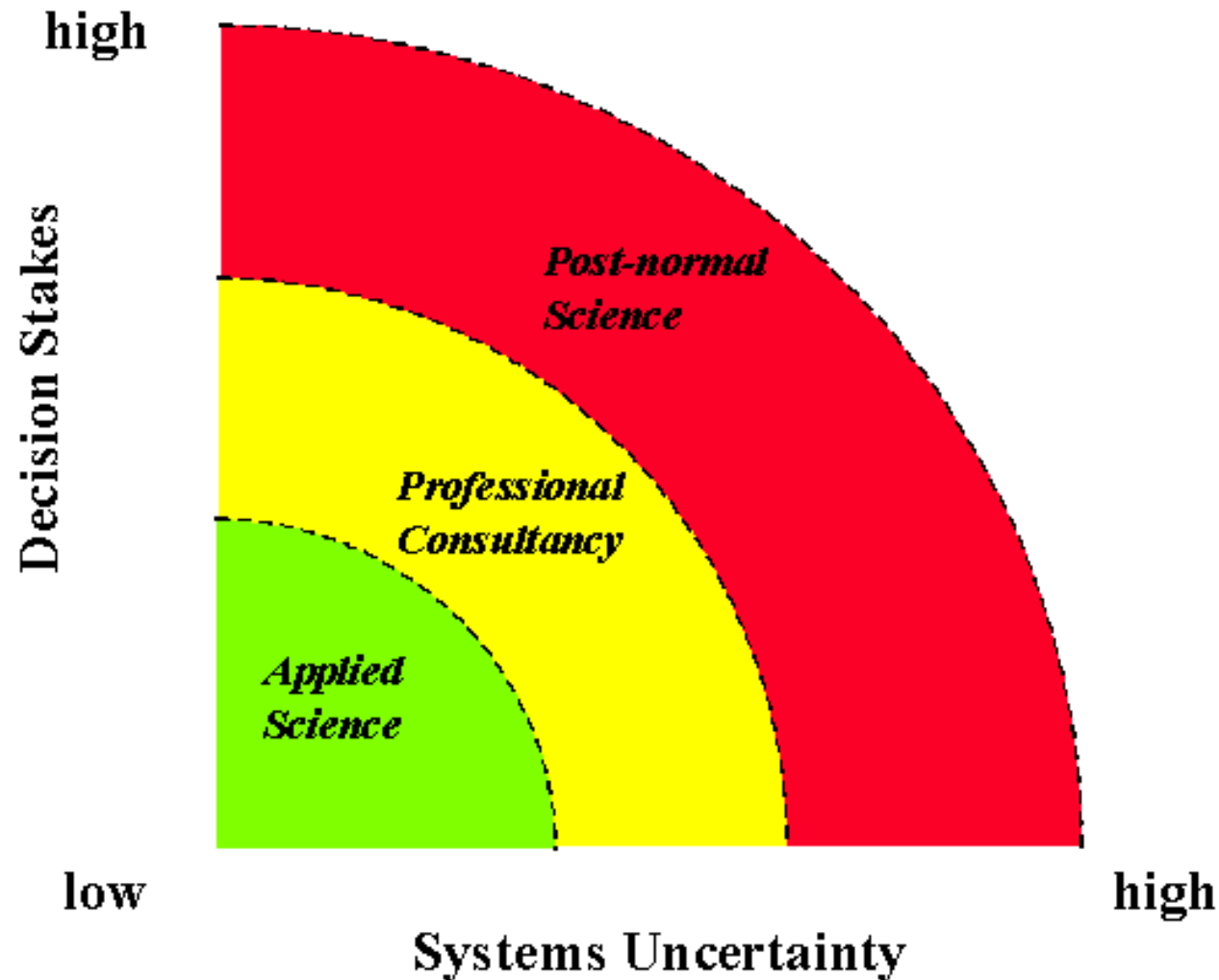# Roles of Neutral Experts in Scientifically Intensive Public Disputes

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Post-normal science

(Funtowicz and Ravetz, 1993)

What are the (Conventional, problematic, or new) roles of experts in public decision-making and participatory governance?

Public education model

- Expert knowledge is source of neutrality and objectivity in controversies

- There is no alternative to experts in science-intensive decision-making.

- Long-standing authority and autonomy insulated from political conflicts and control

Public education model

- Lay knowledge is shaped by beliefs and superstitions.

- Expertise should be governed by its own norms and guarded against all forms of contamination from lay knowledge.

- The ties between experts and the public should be indirect.

- Illiteracy and ignorance of the public produce mistrust, which can be overcome by education.

Crisis of authority

- Fear for misuse

- Criticism against commercialization of expertise

- Strategic use of experts in politics

- Inherent uncertainty from scientific disagreement

- Limitation of universal knowledge detached from the reality and local knowledge

- Wikipedia, Naver, Google,…

Joint Fact Finding

- Help scientific/technical experts and non-expert stakeholders work together on scientific/technical questions

- Ensure that experts consider the full range of stakeholder values and concerns

- Integrate expert and local knowledge

- Preserve independence of scientists, and best practices of scientific inquiry

Joint Fact Finding Process

- During JFF, there is ongoing collaboration and cooperation between stakeholders and experts on:

  - how to frame the questions

  - what methods of analysis to use

  - who will collect information

  - how findings will be interpreted and presented

Democratized science and tendency toward deliberative polling in Korea

Logic of Deliberative Poll

- Take a microcosm of the entire public/ Create a magic town.

- Subject it to deliberation.

- Compare different preferences before and after deliberation.

Assumption

- If the entire country were subjected to the same experience as the microcosm, then hypothetically the entire country would also come to similar conclusions.

Key Components

- (Representative) Random sampling

- Balanced information

- Small group deliberation (Facilitated)

- Q&As with Experts and/or politicians

- Control groups who do not deliberate

- Use of televised broadcasting

Neutral experts for deliberative polling

- Neutrality?

- Experts on which issues?

- Bypass stakeholders and focus on citizens…why?

- Which models of experts in public conflict?

Potential roles of neutral experts in deliberative polling

- 1. **<u>Facilitative assessor</u>**

  - neutrally consult and delivers opinions of the public, experts to decision-makers

- 2. **<u>Mediator</u>**

  - mediate among stakeholders and experts to build consensus on the structure and operation of deliberative polling

  - mediate among stakeholders and experts to create consensus documents based on the outcomes from deliberative polling

- **<u>3. Arbitrator</u>**

  - consult stakeholders, experts and analyze outcomes from deliberative polling and construct policy

- 4. **<u>Med-Arb</u>**

  - Unless there is consensus among stakeholders about deliberative polling mediated by the commission, arbitrate for the final government proposal based on deliberative polling

Comparison of models

Model	rationality	legitimacy	fairness	neutrality	efficiency
Facilitative assessor			neutral, fair but potential conflict		
Mediator	Minimize potential conflict			critical to maintain neutrality	takes long timer
Arbitrator	less legitimate and rational due to lack of expertise on policy issues		less fair		faster decision but potential conflict
Med-Arb	less legitimate and rational due to lack of expertise on policy issues		less fair		faster decision but potential conflict

Thank you