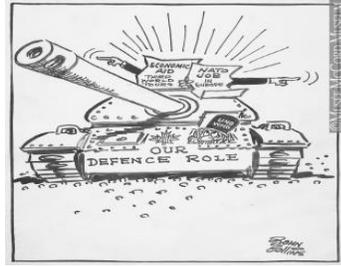


Top 5 reasons for...



Ideology

Sociological research might not be considered by government for policy due to a clash of ideologies between the researcher and the government. For example, research into deprivation caused by cutting benefits is unlikely to be considered by Neo-liberal governments whose main aim is to reduce state spending and keep taxation low.



Think Tanks

Think Tanks are often set up to inform governments of possible solutions to issues. These think tanks are often closely associated with government ideologies, e.g. Centre for Social Justice was closely linked to Minister for Work and Pensions Iain Duncan Smith. Therefore policy recommendations are more likely to be taken on board from these groups.



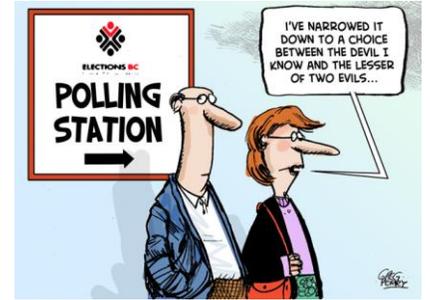
Globalisation

Increased globalisation has led to a loss of control from individual nation-states, with authority given over to supra-national governmental organisations. An example of this is if a nation accepts aid from the IMF or World Bank, they may make stipulations on a nation receiving aid, such as reducing social spending. This is called structural adjustment policies. Research that suggests increasing state spending is unlikely to pass



Lobbying Groups

Many companies pay lobbyists to protect their interests in government. Companies may make large donations to political parties in order to help them get elected and once in power, lobbyists will monitor legislation to ensure that it does not harm a business interests. For example, social research might suggest a living wage, but many lobbyists would see this as a threat to profits and persuade the government not to pass the legislation.



Electoral System

Governments rely upon the consent of the electorate in order to maintain power. Therefore they look to propose legislation that will have the greatest impact on their power base and on 'floating' voters in order to secure the majority of voters they need to form a government. Legislation such as raising taxes to pay for higher education is unlikely to win too many voters over and as a consequence research into this might be discarded by government even if it had a positive impact.

Sociology not influencing social policy