



Integrity in public life

Jo Wolff
Blavatnik Chair of Philosophy
& Public Policy

Tom Simpson
Assoc. Professor of Philosophy
& Public Policy

Some advice to politicians and public officials



Machiavelli's examples of 'foxiness'



Meanness over generosity. Trying to achieve a reputation for generosity will just bankrupt you. (But if you have others' property in your power, give that away generously)

Cruelty needed to achieve unity, loyalty and order

Concealed 'foxiness': strategic dishonesty

What are the arguments for Machiavelli's view?



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1. **Trust is gullibility.** You can't trust others to keep their word. So, you don't owe it to them to keep yours
2. **'The ends justify the means'**
 - Government deals with large-scale consequences, and these override any rights-claims. (Consequentialism)
 - Acting morally will lead you to lose power, because others are willing to be immoral. And you can do good only if you are in power
 - Social order is the necessary condition for more complex moral relationships. Politics is how social order is achieved, and it essentially involves the administration of force


The discontinuity thesis. The morality (if any) of the political realm is distinct from the morality of the personal realm

Reasons to reject Machiavelli's realism



1. **Why seek power?** The argument, if sound, only establishes what is necessary to gain and retain power, but gives us no reason to seek power in the first place. What is power *for*?
2. **Order is enabling.** Order, once achieved, permits trustworthiness. An untrustworthy political class is likely to foster the conditions that lead to the breakdown of order
3. **Frame shifting.** Once you compromise, your baseline changes and you'll become corrupt
4. **The power of integrity.** Machiavelli underplays the power of being moral to shape public life

integrity, *n.*

Pronunciation:  /ɪn'tɛɡrɪti/



Wholeness. The condition of having no part or element taken away or wanting; undivided or unbroken state; an integral whole; not being marred or violated

Resolutely doing right. Unimpaired moral state; freedom from moral corruption; innocence, sinlessness. Soundness of moral principle; especially in relation to truth and fair dealing; uprightness, honesty, sincerity

Please identify a situation from your experience of public service, in which there was considerable pressure to act in ways that you would regard as inconsistent with good conduct. This could be a scenario that you or a colleague has found themselves in, or that it is likely you may find yourself in.

What was the source of the pressure? How did you or would you resolve it?

Jo's dilemma

Date		Session
Mon 4	2hrs	Opening session. <i>Advice to Public Servants</i>
Tues 5	90mins	Mac Leauanae, Hanan Ahii, Muhammad Ali
Weds 6	90mins	Elsie Addo Awadzi, John McKeon, Tania Ott
Thurs 7	60mins	Mmboneni Muofhe, Sherifa Sherif
Fri 8	90mins	Rabiya Javeria Agha, Narek Melkumyan, Eduardo Clark
Sat 9	90mins	Qais Al Yousef, Vincent Bagiire, Oonagh McPhillips
Sun 10		No session
Mon 11	90mins	Patricia Bullrich, Damian Moloney
Tues 12	90mins	Ansoumane Camara, Hoani Lambert
Weds 13		Office hours