

The Unprincipled Certainty

A Political Science Theory Postulated by Mason Williams

The Uncertainty Principle:

Heisenberg's "*The Uncertainty Principle*" is a scientific theory of quantum mechanics that states:

"The more precisely the position is determined, the less precisely the momentum is known in this instant, and vice versa." –Heisenberg, uncertainty paper, 1927

As I understand it, this translates to mean that in the process of examining something, you change the nature of the subject you're examining. In other words, you alter the nature of something in the act of examining it.

Applying the principle to water, even though it seems like water is water, you can't observe or analyze moving water by stopping it to "understand" it. Moving water has a different ecology than still water. Motion is an integral part of its content, just as standing is an integral part of still water.

As expressed in a scene from the Coen Brothers film, *The Man Who Wasn't There*:

LAWYER: (Freddy Riedenschneider)
...This guy in Germany... he's got this theory.
If you want to test something scientifically,
...you gotta look at it, but sometimes when you
look at it, your looking changes it. The
Uncertainty Principle, sounds screwy, but even
Einstein says this guy Heisenberg's onto
something.

The Unprincipled Certainty

My theory, *The Unprincipled Certainty*, is a political science concept that states:

"The more imprecisely a position is determined, the more precisely you're going to get away with it." –Williams, unprincipled paper, 2003

It is based on the assumption that by not looking at what politicians are doing, they will not change. This is particularly applicable to the leadership of the Bush Administration. Simply put, it means that their politically unprincipled position toward science is a certainty.

A good example of this is the war in Iraq. Why we're really there has never been precisely stated and therefore the future outcome is precisely unknown.

One could apply *The Unprincipled Certainty* to the deregulation of the financial sector. The more "hands-off" the political position was, the more corrupt the financial market became.

The Unprincipled Certainty relates to politics in a different way than *The Uncertainty Principle* relates to science. Whereas *The Uncertainty Principle* is a theory, possibly leading to fact, which has the support of the scientific community, *The Unprincipled Certainty* is a fact leading to a possible theory, a derivative of political non-support for science in the realm of squat-dumb mechanics.