

# Contents

<i>List of illustrations</i>	xi
<i>Preface and acknowledgements</i>	xiii
1 Introduction: Meaning in action	1
2 Interpretation and its others	15
<b>PART I</b>	
<b>Interpreting traditions</b>	33
3 British political sciences	35
4 Westminster models	56
5 Decentring governance	74
<b>PART II</b>	
<b>Reading practices</b>	87
6 The Blair presidency	89
7 Everyday life in a ministry	109
8 National Health Service reform	127
9 Police reform	145
10 Conclusions	164
<i>Notes</i>	176
<i>References</i>	183
<i>Index</i>	200

# Illustrations

## Tables

3.1 Traditions in the study of British political science	38
3.2 Finer's typology and variables summarized	43
4.1 Traditions of governance in Australia	59
5.1 Narratives of governance	77
7.1 A comparison of three secretaries: a full year's activities by hours and per cent	114

## Figure

7.1 Comparing permanent secretaries' workloads	113
--	-----