

POLITICS AND NUMBERS 2010- 15

David Walker

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**'This is the book
we should throw at
David Cameron.'**

John O'Farrell

CAMERON'S COUP

**HOW THE TORIES
TOOK BRITAIN
TO THE BRINK**

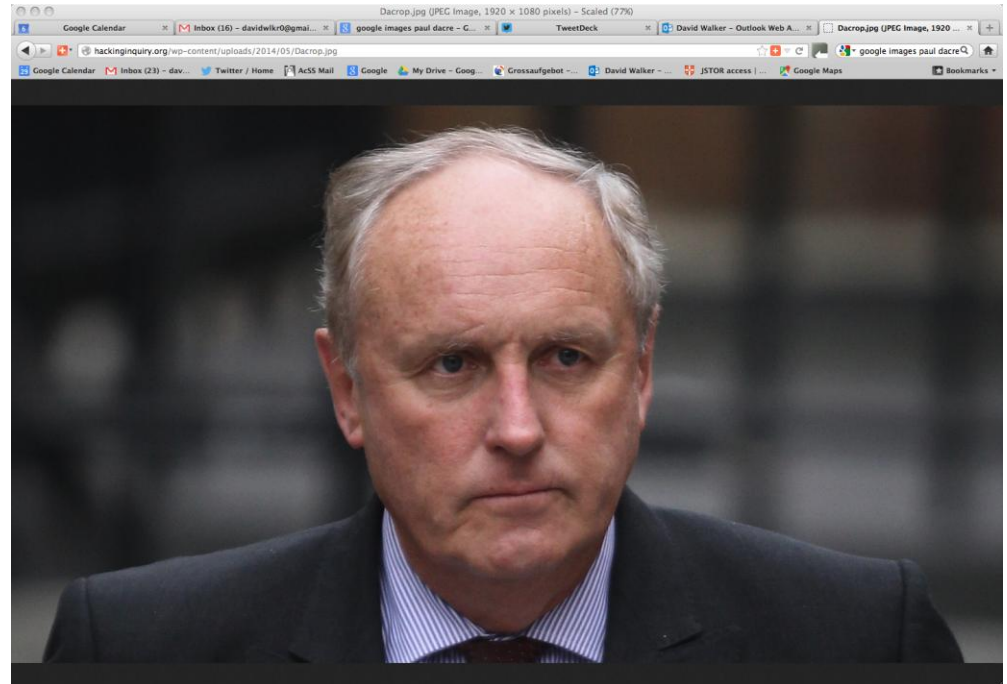
**POLLY TOYNBEE
& DAVID WALKER**

Cameron's Coup

- The austerity fraud, Osbornomics and dodgy (economic/public finance) data
- The triumph of (neo-liberal/Tory) ideology
- Public numbers at the heart of public and political debate during Cameron quinquennium
- Chiaroscuro not Bridget Riley, rhetoric and reality around data going in different directions
- Evidence for policy running alongside dogma

Balance of forces

- How to characterise UK public data? Pluralism, competitive balancing, 'democratic statistics' or



1: forces of darkness

- Right-wing media with little or no truth commitments (+ widespread stat illiteracy)
- Civil service culture, including professional statisticians (Whitehall press officers)
- Public ignorance, indifference
- Inverted 'science' establishment
- £ conscious universities

2: the good guys

- Independent thinkers and analysts (IFS and St Paul, OBR and St Robert)
- Professional associations and learned societies
- ‘Rational’ business and its media (Financial Times)
- International organisations (EU, OECD)



The election matters

- They aren't 'all the same' (especially if you're poor, young or regional)
- Fragmented and tactical voting; vote Green get Cameron?
- UK disunity and UK in Europe
- Lynton Crosby as chief statistician

