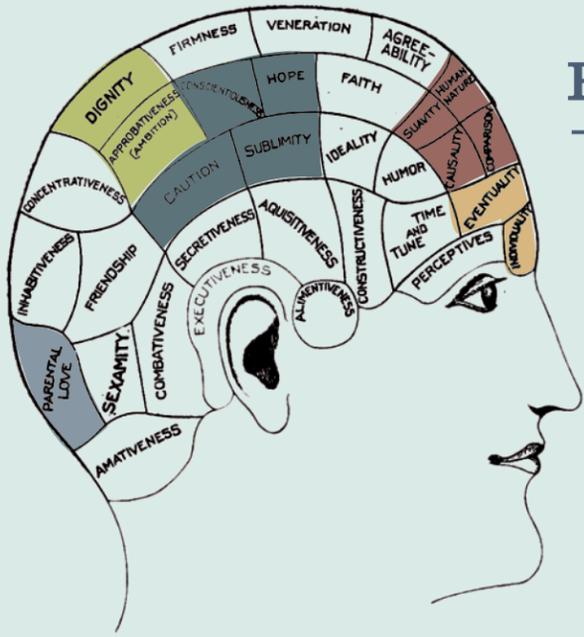


PHRENOLOGICAL ANALYSIS: POPULAR CABLE NEWS PUNDITS



Although O.S. Fowler's phrenology practice (see John Adamian's "Dr. Octagon," beginning on page 24 of this issue) fell out of vogue and was discredited in his later years, it's easy to imagine, if Fowler were alive today, that he'd be invited to share his expertise on one subject or another for Fox News, CNN, MSNBC, CNBC, et al.

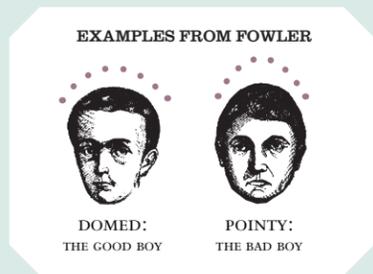
In an attempt to channel Fowler's expertise from the grave, we asked the founder of phrenology.org, Peter Van den Bossche, to help assess the assessors on cable news.

This schema performs a phrenological

analysis on a few of the pundits who made multiple appearances on Sunday talk shows and/or cable news programs between January 25 and February 8, 2009 to comment on the U.S. economic stimulus package. Given that the credentials of television commentators are often unclear and sometimes dubious (only 5 percent during the survey period were actual economists), it's perhaps useful, or at least appropriate, in this age of pseudo-scientific infotainment, to study the shapes of a few of our most influential talking heads.

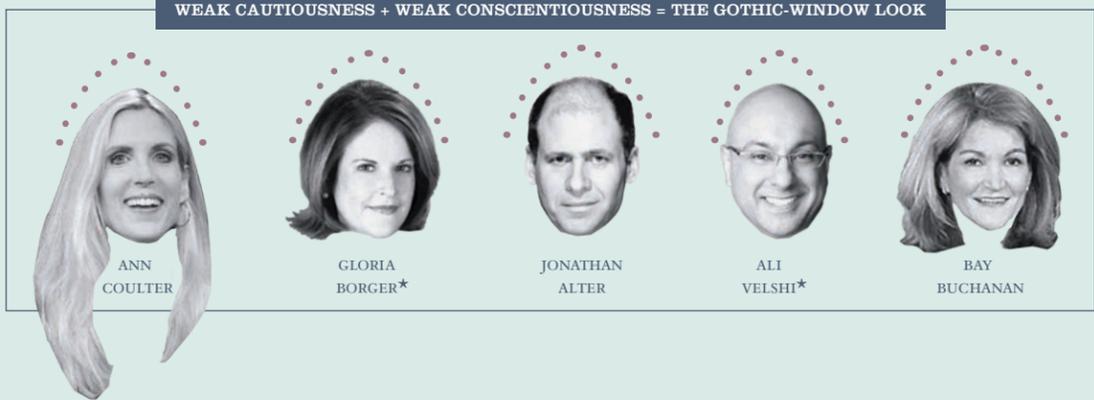
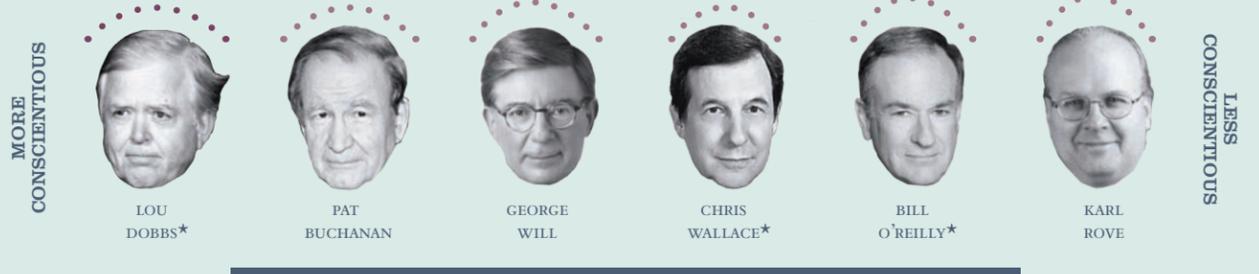
—Angie Waller

Conscientiousness

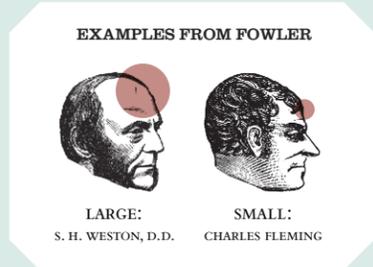


Conscientiousness measures the degree of attachment to moral values, commitment, and incorruptibility. A strong conscientiousness with spirituality (faith and trust) and gives a "domed" effect to the skull, similar to a football stadium.

When cautiousness and conscientiousness are weak, the skull gets an ogival form, like a Gothic church window, particularly if destructiveness (fighting spirit) is strong.



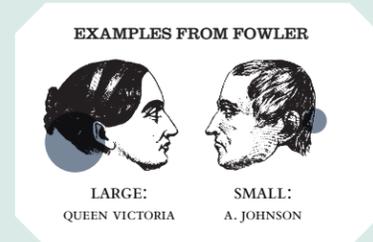
Benevolence



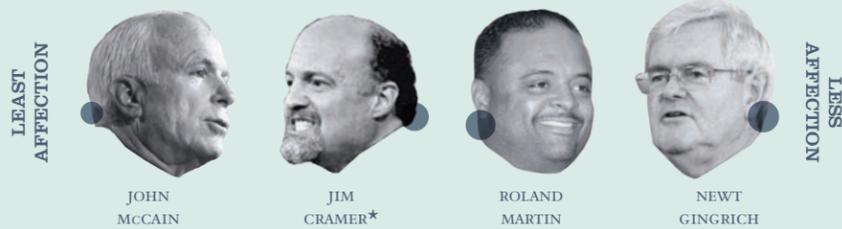
Benevolence is located in the upper part of the forehead. A weak benevolence leads to little regard for others and a tendency to emphasize self-interest.



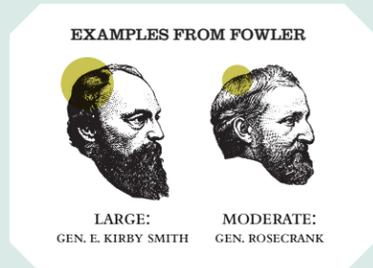
Affection



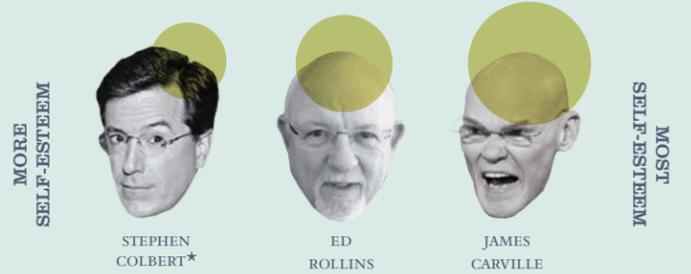
When affection, or selfless love, is weak, displays of feelings and sympathy often are only in function of other faculties like amativeness (sexual desire) or acquisitiveness (greed).



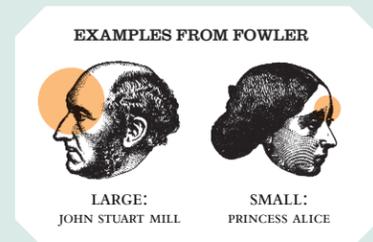
Self-Esteem



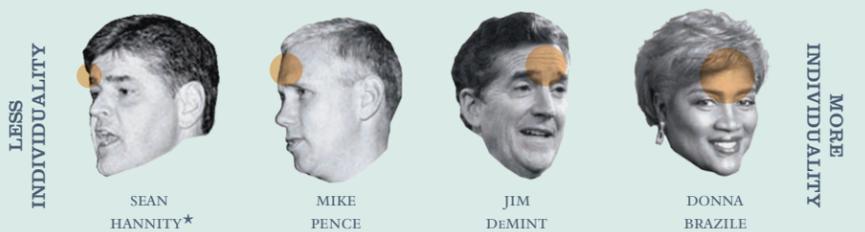
Self-esteem is the faculty that stands for self-love and dignity. In moderate amounts it leads to a sense of personal responsibility, dignity, and a proper sense of pride. An overdeveloped self-esteem stands for egotism, prejudice, self-centeredness, arrogance, and disdain.



Individuality



One possessing a strong sense of individuality will have a sloped forehead. Individuality is the hallmark of the practical, objective, and realistic mind. This trait leads to strong attention to details in both work and fantasy.



* Host their own programs

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