

Innovation, Science, and Institutional Change: A Research Handbook

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Innovation is central to the dynamics and success of organizations and society in the modern world, the process famously referred to by Schumpeter as "gales of creative destruction".

This ambitious and wide ranging book makes the case for a new approach to the study of innovation. It is the editors' conviction that this approach must accomplish several objectives: it must recognise that innovation encompasses changes in organizations and society, as well as products and processes; it must be genuinely interdisciplinary and include contributes from economics, sociology, management and political science; it must be international, to reflect both different patterns or systems of innovation, and different research traditions; and it must reflect the fundamental changes taking place in science, research and knowledge creation at all levels.

To this end they have gathered together a distinguished group of economists, sociologists, political scientists, and organization, innovation and institutional theorists to both assess current research on innovation, and to set out a new research agenda. This has been achieved through careful planning and development of the project, and also through the ensuing structure of the book which looks in turn at Product and Process Innovation (perhaps the best established focus of existing research on innovation), Scientific Research (assessing the changing character of basic research and science policy); Knowledge Dynamics in Context (encompassing organizational learning in all its aspects); and Institutional Change (an analysis of the institutional context that can shape, enable and constrain innovation).

This carefully integrated and wide ranging book will be an ideal reference point for academics and researchers across the Social Sciences interested in all dimensions of innovation--be they in the field of Management Studies, Economics, Organization Studies, Sociology, Political Science and Science and Technology Studies.

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About the Author

Jerald Hage is Director of the Center of Innovation in the Department of Sociology at the University of Maryland.

Marius Meeus is Professor of Innovation and Organization at the University of Utrecht.

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