SHAPING TECHNOLOGY/ BUILDING SOCIETY

STUDIES IN SOCIOTECHNICAL CHANGE

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AND
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Shaping Technology Building Society Studies In Sociotechnical Change Inside Technology

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Shaping Technology Building Society Studies In Sociotechnical Change Inside Technology:

Shaping Technology / Building Society Wiebe E. Bijker,John Law,1994-09-29 Building on the influential book The Social Construction of Technological Systems this volume carries forward the project of creating a theory of technological development and implementation that is strongly grounded in both sociology and history Technology is everywhere yet a theory of technology and its social dimension remains to be fully developed Building on the influential book The Social Construction of Technological Systems this volume carries forward the project of creating a theory of technological development and implementation that is strongly grounded in both sociology and history The 12 essays address the central question of how technologies become stabilized how they attain a final form and use that is generally accepted The essays are tied together by a general introduction part introductions and a theoretical conclusion The first part of the book examines and criticizes the idea that technologies have common life cycles three case studies cover the history of a successful but never produced British jet fighter the manipulation of patents by a French R two studies argue for a strong sociotechnology in which artifact and social context are viewed as a single seamless web while the third looks at the ways in which a social program is a technology **Inside the Politics of Technology** Hans Harbers,2005 Though the old saying claims that man is the measure of all things the authors of Inside the Politics of Technology argue that the distinction implied between autonomous humans and neutral instruments of technology is an illusion On the contrary the technologies humans create simultaneously shape humans themselves By means of case studies of technologies as diverse as video cameras electric cars pregnancy tests and genetic screenings this volume considers the implications of this co production of technology and society for our philosophical and political ideas Are only humans endowed with social political and moral agency or does our technology share those qualities And if so how should we understand or practice a politics of technology **Political Theory and Community Building in Post-Soviet Russia** Oleg Kharkhordin,Risto Alapuro,2011-03-07 This book revisits many aspects of current social science theories such as actor network theory and the French school of science and technology studies to test how the theories apply in a specific situation in this case after 1991 in the city of Cherepovets in Russia home of Russia s second biggest steel producer Severstal Using political philosophy to analyse the down to earth details of the real techno scientific problems facing the world the book examines the role of things and urban infrastructure in particular in political change It considers how the city s infrastructure including housing ICT networks the provision of public utilities of all kinds has been transformed in recent years examines the roles of different actors including the municipal authorities and explores citizens differing and sometimes contradictory images of their city It includes a great deal of new thinking on how communities are built how common action is initiated to provide public goods and how the goods themselves physical things are a crucial driver of community action and community building arguably more so than more abstract social and human forces *Ownership of Knowledge* Dagmar Schafer,Annapurna Mamidipudi,Marius

Buning,2023-07-18 A framework for knowledge ownership that challenges the mechanisms of inequality in modern society Scholars of science technology medicine and law have all tended to emphasize knowledge as the sum of human understanding and its ownership as possession by law Breaking with traditional discourse on knowledge property as something that concerns mainly words and intellectual history or science and law Dagmar Sch fer Annapurna Mamidipudi and Marius Buning propose technology as a central heuristic for studying the many implications of knowledge ownership Toward this end they focus on the notions of knowledge and ownership in courtrooms workshops policy and research practices while also shedding light on scholarship itself as a powerful tool for making explicit the politics inherent in knowledge practices and social order The book presents case studies showing how diverse knowledge economies are created and how inequalities arise from them Unlike scholars who have fragmented this discourse across the disciplines of anthropology sociology and history the editors highlight recent developments in the emerging field of the global history of knowledge as science as economy and as culture The case studies reveal how notions of knowing and owning emerge because they reciprocally produce and determine each other s limits and possibilities that is how we know inevitably affects how we can own what we know and how we own always impacts how and what we are able to know Contributors Dagmar Sch fer Annapurna Mamidipudi Cynthia Brokaw Marius Buning Viren Murthy Marjolijn Bol Amy E Slaton James Leach Myles W Jackson Lissant Bolton Vivek S Oak J rn Oeder **Making Silicon Valley** Christophe Lécuyer,2006 A history of the innovative practices in the San Francisco area electronics industry that paved the way for the rise of the computer industry in Silicon Valley **Imperial Technoscience** Amit Prasad,2014-03-14 A study of science and technology practices that shows how even emergent aspects of research and development remain entangled with established hierarchies In the last four decades during which magnetic resonance imaging MRI has emerged as a cutting edge medical technology and a cultural icon technoscientific imaginaries and practices have undergone a profound change across the globe Shifting transnational geography of tecchnoscientific innovations is making commonly deployed Euro West centric divides such as west versus non west or innovating north versus non innovating south increasingly untenable the world is indeed becoming flatter Nevertheless such dualist divides which are intimately tied to other dualist categories that have been used to describe scientific knowledge and practice continue to undergird analyses and imaginaries of transnational technoscience Imperial Technoscience puts into broad relief the ambivalent and contradictory folding of Euro west centrism with emergent features of technoscience It argues Euro West centric historicism and resulting over determinations not only hide the vibrant albeit hierarchical transnational histories of technoscience but also tell us little about shifting geography of technoscientific innovations The book utilizes a deconstructive empirical approach to explore entangled histories of MRI across disciplines physics chemistry medicine etc institutions university hospitals industry etc and nations United States Britain and India Entangled histories of MRI it shows better explain emergence and consolidation of particular technoscientific trajectories

and shifts in transnational geography of science and technology e g centers and peripheries *Producing Power* Sonja D. Schmid,2015-02-06 An examination of how the technical choices social hierarchies economic structures and political dynamics shaped the Soviet nuclear industry leading up to Chernobyl The Chernobyl disaster has been variously ascribed to human error reactor design flaws and industry mismanagement Six former Chernobyl employees were convicted of criminal negligence they defended themselves by pointing to reactor design issues Other observers blamed the Soviet style of ideologically driven economic and industrial management In Producing Power Sonja Schmid draws on interviews with veterans of the Soviet nuclear industry and extensive research in Russian archives as she examines these alternate accounts Rather than pursue one definitive explanation she investigates how each of these narratives makes sense in its own way and demonstrates that each implies adherence to a particular set of ideas about high risk technologies human machine interactions organizational methods for ensuring safety and productivity and even about the legitimacy of the Soviet state She also shows how these attitudes shaped and were shaped by the Soviet nuclear industry from its very beginnings Schmid explains that Soviet experts established nuclear power as a driving force of social not just technical progress She examines the Soviet nuclear industry s dual origins in weapons and electrification programs and she traces the emergence of nuclear power experts as a professional community Schmid also fundamentally reassesses the design choices for nuclear power reactors in the shadow of the Cold War s arms race Schmid s account helps us understand how and why a complex sociotechnical system broke down Chernobyl while unique and specific to the Soviet experience can also provide valuable lessons for contemporary nuclear projects *The Radiance of France, new edition* Gabrielle Hecht,2009-07-31 How it happened that technological prowess and national glory or radiance which also means radiation in French became synonymous in France as nowhere else In the aftermath of World War II as France sought a distinctive role for itself in the modern postcolonial world the nation and its leaders enthusiastically embraced large technological projects in general and nuclear power in particular The Radiance of France asks how it happened that technological prowess and national glory or radiance which also means radiation in French became synonymous in France as nowhere else To answer this question Gabrielle Hecht has forged an innovative combination of technology studies and cultural and political history in a book that as Michel Callon writes in the new foreword to this edition not only sheds new light on the role of technology in the construction of national identities but is also a seminal contribution to the history of contemporary France Proposing the concept of technopolitical regime as a way to analyze the social political cultural and technological dynamics among engineering elites unionized workers and rural communities Hecht shows how the history of France s first generation of nuclear reactors is also a history of the multiple meanings of nationalism from the postwar period and France s desire for post Vichy redemption to 1969 and the adoption of a Frenchified American design This paperback edition of Hecht s groundbreaking book includes both Callon s foreword and an afterword by the author in which she brings the story up to

date and reflects on such recent developments as the 2007 French presidential election the promotion of nuclear power as the solution to climate change and France s aggressive exporting of nuclear technology **Everyday Engineering** Dominique Vinck,2009-01-23 A guide to the everyday working world of engineers written by researchers trained in both engineering and sociology Everyday Engineering was written to help future engineers understand what they are going to be doing in their everyday working lives so that they can do their work more effectively and with a broader social vision It will also give sociologists deeper insights into the sociotechnical world of engineering The book consists of ethnographic studies in which the authors all trained in both engineering and sociology go into the field as participant observers The sites and types of engineering explored include mechanical design in manufacturing industries instrument design software debugging environmental management within companies and the implementation of a system for separating household waste The book is organized in three parts The first part introduces the complexity of technical practices The second part enters the social and cultural worlds of designers to grasp their practices and motivations The third part examines the role of writing practices and graphical representation The epilogue uses the case studies to raise a series of questions about how objects can be taken into account in sociological analyses of human organizations **Situated Intervention** Teun Zuiderent-Jerak,2015-08-07 An exploration of sociological research that is neither detached nor engaged a new approach to sociological knowledge production with examples from health care In this book Teun Zuiderent Jerak considers how the direct involvement of social scientists in the practices they study can lead to the production of sociological knowledge Neither detached sociological scholarship nor engaged social science this new approach to sociological research brings together two activities often viewed as belonging to different realms intervening in practices and furthering scholarly understanding of them Just as the natural sciences benefited from broadening their scholarship from theorizing to experiment so too could the social sciences Additionally Zuiderent Jerak points out rather than proceeding from a pre set normative agenda scholarly intervention allows for the experimental production of normativity Scholars are far from detached but still may be surprised by the normative outcomes of the interactions within the experiment Zuiderent Jerak illustrates situated intervention research with a series of examples drawn from health care Among the topics addressed are patient compliance in hemophilia home care the organization of oncology care and the value of situated standardization the relationship between standardization and patient centeredness the development of patient centered pathways value driven and savings driven approaches to the construction of health care markets and multiple ontologies of safety in care for older adults Finally returning to the question of normativity in sociological research Zuiderent Jerak proposes an ethics of specificity according to which research adapts its sociological responses to the practices studied Sociology not only has more to offer to the practices it studies it also has more to learn from them *Biomedical Platforms* Peter Keating,Alberto Cambrosio,2003 An examination of postwar medicine based on the notion of the biomedical platform the theoretical and clinical meeting ground between the normal and the

pathological Waves and Forms Basile Zimmermann,2015-05-22 An examination of the relationship between technical objects and culture in contemporary China drawing on concepts from science and technology studies Technical objects constrain what users do with them They are not neutral entities but embody information choices values assumptions or even mistakes embedded by designers What happens when a technology is designed in one culture and used in another What happens for example when a Chinese user is confronted by Roman alphabet embedded interfaces In this book Basile Zimmermann examines the relationship between technical objects and culture in contemporary China drawing on concepts from science and technology studies STS He presents a new theoretical framework for culture based on the notions of waves and forms which provides a powerful descriptive toolkit for technology and culture The materials Zimmermann uses to develop and illustrate his theoretical arguments come from three groups of case studies about the use of technical devices in today s China The first and most extensive group consists of observations of electronic music devices in Beijing the second is a study of a Chinese networking site Happy Network and the third is a collection of personal small scale observations on the way Chinese characters behave when located in alphabet encoded devices such as mobile phones web pages or printed documents Zimmermann discusses well known frameworks from STS and combines them with propositions and topics from Chinese studies Each of the case studies advances his theoretical argument Zimmermann s account shows how cultural differences can be integrated into STS research and how sinologists can turn their attention from ancient texts and traditional art to everyday things in present day China **The Sound of Innovation** Andrew J. Nelson,2015-03-06 How a team of musicians engineers computer scientists and psychologists developed computer music as an academic field and ushered in the era of digital music In the 1960s a team of Stanford musicians engineers computer scientists and psychologists used computing in an entirely novel way to produce and manipulate sound and create the sonic basis of new musical compositions This group of interdisciplinary researchers at the nascent Center for Computer Research in Music and Acoustics CCRMA pronounced karma helped to develop computer music as an academic field invent the technologies that underlie it and usher in the age of digital music In The Sound of Innovation Andrew Nelson chronicles the history of CCRMA tracing its origins in Stanford s Artificial Intelligence Laboratory through its present day influence on Silicon Valley and digital music groups worldwide Nelson emphasizes CCRMA s interdisciplinarity which stimulates creativity at the intersections of fields its commitment to open sharing and users and its pioneering commercial engagement He shows that Stanford s outsized influence on the emergence of digital music came from the intertwining of these three modes which brought together diverse supporters with different aims around a field of shared interest Nelson thus challenges long standing assumptions about the divisions between art and science between the humanities and technology and between academic research and commercial applications showing how the story of a small group of musicians reveals substantial insights about innovation Nelson draws on extensive archival research and dozens of interviews with digital music pioneers

the book s website provides access to original historic documents and other material **Trading Zones and Interactional Expertise** Michael E. Gorman,2010 A proposal for a new framework for fostering collaborations across disciplines addressing both theory and practical applications Cross disciplinary collaboration increasingly characterizes today s science and engineering research The problems and opportunities facing society do not come neatly sorted by discipline Difficulties arise when researchers from disciplines as different as engineering and the humanities work together and find that they speak largely different languages This book explores a new framework for fostering collaborations among existing disciplines and expertise communities The framework unites two ideas to emerge from recent work in STS trading zones in which scientific subcultures each with its own language develop the equivalents of pidgin and creole and interactional expertise in which experts learn to use the language of another research community in ways that are indistinguishable from expert practitioners of that community A trading zone can gradually become a new area of expertise facilitated by interactional expertise and involving negotiations over boundary objects objects represented in different ways by different participants The volume describes applications of the framework to service science business strategy environmental management education and practical ethics One detailed case study focuses on attempts to create trading zones that would help prevent marine bycatch another investigates trading zones formed to market the female condom to women in Africa another describes how humanists embedded in a nanotechnology laboratory gained interactional expertise resulting in improved research results for both humanists and nanoscientists Contributors Brad Allenby Donna T Chen Harry Collins Robert Evans Erik Fisher Peter Galison Michael E Gorman Lynn Isabella Lekelia D Jenkins Mary Ann Leeper Roop L Mahajan Matthew M Mehalik Ann E Mills Bolko von Oetinger Elizabeth Powell Mary V Rorty Jeff Shrager Jim Spohrer Patricia H Werhane

Developer's Dilemma Casey O'Donnell,2014-11-21 Step inside the shoes of video game creators in this fascinating look at game development and how it can inform our understanding of work Rank and file game developers bring videogames from concept to product and yet their work is almost invisible hidden behind the famous names of publishers executives or console manufacturers In this book Casey O Donnell examines the creative collaborative practice of typical game developers His investigation of why game developers work the way they do sheds light on our understanding of work the organization of work and the market forces that shape and are shaped by media industries O Donnell shows that the ability to play with the underlying systems technical conceptual and social is at the core of creative and collaborative practice which is central to the New Economy When access to underlying systems is undermined so too is creative collaborative process Drawing on extensive fieldwork in game studios in the United States and India O Donnell stakes out new territory empirically conceptually and methodologically Mimicking the structure of videogames the book is divided into worlds within which are levels and each world ends with a boss fight a rant about lessons learned and tools mastered O Donnell describes the process of videogame development from pre production through production considering such aspects as experimental systems

socially mandatory overtime and the perpetual startup machine that exhausts young initially enthusiastic workers He links work practice to broader systems of publishing manufacturing and distribution introduces the concept of a privileged actor intra internetwork and describes patent and copyright enforcement by industry and the state **Far-Fetched Facts** Richard Rottenburg,2009-04-17 A fictionalized ethnographic study of development aid in sub Saharan Africa that focuses on technologies of inscription in the interactions of development banks international experts and local managers In 1996 the sub Saharan African country of Ruritania launched a massive waterworks improvement project funded by the Normesian Development Bank headquartered in Urbania Normland and with the guidance of Shilling Partner a consulting firm in Mercatoria Normland Far Fetched Facts tells the story of this project as narrated by anthropologists Edward B Drotlevski and Samuel A Martonosi Their account of the Ruritanian waterworks project views the problems of development from a new perspective focusing on technologies of inscription in the interactions of development bank international experts and local managers This development project is fictionalized of course although based closely on author Richard Rottenburg s experiences working on and observing different development projects in the 1990s Rottenburg uses the case of the Ruritanian waterworks project to examine issues of standardization database building documentation calculation and territory mapping The techniques and technologies of the representational practices of documentation are crucial Rottenburg argues both to day to day management of the project and to the demonstration of the project s legitimacy Five decades of development aid or development cooperation as it is now sometimes known have yielded disappointing results Rottenburg looks in particular at the role of the development consultant often called upon to act as mediator between the other actors and at the interstitial spaces where developmental cooperation actually occurs He argues that both critics and practitioners of development often misconstrue the grounds of cooperation which he claims are moral legal and political rather than techno scientific or epistemological Calculating a Natural World Atsushi Akera,2007 How the complex interplay of academic commercial and military interests produced an intense period of scientific discovery and technological innovation in computing during the Cold War **Acting in an Uncertain World** Michel Callon,Pierre Lascoumes,Yannick Barthe,2011-01-21 A call for a new form of democracy in which hybrid forums composed of experts and laypeople address such sociotechnical controversies as hazardous waste genetically modified organisms and nanotechnology Controversies over such issues as nuclear waste genetically modified organisms asbestos tobacco gene therapy avian flu and cell phone towers arise almost daily as rapid scientific and technological advances create uncertainty and bring about unforeseen concerns The authors of Acting in an Uncertain World argue that political institutions must be expanded and improved to manage these controversies to transform them into productive conversations and to bring about technical democracy They show how hybrid forums in which experts non experts ordinary citizens and politicians come together reveal the limits of traditional delegative democracies in which decisions are made by quasi professional politicians and techno scientific information is the domain of

specialists in laboratories The division between professionals and laypeople the authors claim is simply outmoded The authors argue that laboratory research should be complemented by everyday experimentation pursued in the real world and they describe various modes of cooperation between the two They explore a range of concrete examples of hybrid forums that have dealt with sociotechnical controversies including nuclear waste disposal in France industrial waste and birth defects in Japan a childhood leukemia cluster in Woburn Massachusetts and mad cow disease in the United Kingdom The authors discuss the implications for political decision making in general and describe a dialogic democracy that enriches traditional representative democracy To invent new procedures for consultation and representation they suggest is to contribute to an endless process that is necessary for the ongoing democratization of democracy Mechanizing Proof Donald MacKenzie,2004-01-30 Most aspects of our private and social lives our safety the integrity of the financial system the functioning of utilities and other services and national security now depend on computing But how can we know that this computing is trustworthy In Mechanizing Proof Donald MacKenzie addresses this key issue by investigating the interrelations of computing risk and mathematical proof over the last half century from the perspectives of history and sociology His discussion draws on the technical literature of computer science and artificial intelligence and on extensive interviews with participants MacKenzie argues that our culture now contains two ideals of proof proof as traditionally conducted by human mathematicians and formal mechanized proof He describes the systems constructed by those committed to the latter ideal and the many questions those systems raise about the nature of proof He looks at the primary social influence on the development of automated proof the need to predict the behavior of the computer systems upon which human life and security depend and explores the involvement of powerful organizations such as the National Security Agency He concludes that in mechanizing proof and in pursuing dependable computer systems we do not obviate the need for trust in our collective human judgment **Evidence Based and Knowledge Based Social Work** Inge M. Bryderup,2008-12-01 Policymakers in welfare democracies throughout the world are raising questions as to whether welfare systems deliver what the public expects and focus attention on increasing costs Social workers need more evidence and knowledge about an increasing diversity of social work practices Users of social welfare are increasingly individualized and made responsible for choosing and delivering their own service through contracts and this makes politicians social workers and users more interested in evidence and knowledge about social services even though these interests are often conflicting These tendencies might be part of the reasons why the evaluation of social work practice seems to be characterized at present by a variety and diversity of research methods approaches and theories

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