WHY AND HOW TECHNOLOGY MATTERS
Wiebe E. Bijker

Abstract
Technology matters to policymaking and politicians, and it should, thus, matter to political studies scholars. In this article, I argue why and how this is the case, and what consequences could it have for political studies. My central argument in this article will be that neither technology or politics can be defined simple and neat way, both: can be very different things in different contexts. Worse, its “definitions” are interdependents: technology and politics constitute each other in an important degree. The implication of this argument is that answers to the questions about “how” and “why” technology matters to politics are closely tied; and that this answers are also related to answering about politics’ influence on technology. It only makes sense to discuss the relations between technology and politics in a contextual way, related to specific circumstances.

KEYWORDS: CONSTRUCTIVISM – TECHNOLOGY – TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE – TECHNOLOGY AND POLITICS

NANOTECHNOLOGY: PROFIT TO ALL OR BIGGEST UNEQUALITY?
Guillermo Foladori | Noela Invernizzi

Abstract
Nanotechnology promises to be the next technological revolution. The actual market of nanoparticles, while presently minimal, is expected to increase substantially in the next decade. Although it is frequently presented as a clean and beneficial technology, nanotechnology is raising considerable debate. Controversies over the health and environmental impacts have rapidly emerged. Potential military uses raise ethical concerns. The need for regulation
of the production and commercialization of nanoproducts, and also for a greater participation in the orientation of Science and Technology, have provoked profound discussions.

Given the above issues, this article focuses on the potential economic impacts of nanotechnology and, specifically, its potential impact on the distribution of wealth, a topic scarcely considered in the literature.

**KEYWORDS: NANOTECHNOLOGY – TECHNOLOGICAL REVOLUTION**

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**THE HARD OBTAINING OF SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE: RISK EVALUATION ON SACCHARIN**

**Jordi Vallverdú i Segura**

**Abstract**

When exist divergences about the causality of an event, or about the minimum evidence level required during the analysis of a fact, appear scientific controversies. Risk assessment implies a multidisciplinar scientific practices approach, which difficult consens and initiate controversies. Their clausure is strongly difficult. This paper studies one case study that embraces a long historical period between the discovery (1876) and safety statement (2000) of saccharin, the first artificial synthetic sweetener of history. Through the case, the author proposes the reflexion about difficulties appeared when we want to find clear causal relationships and consensus about scientific evidence inside risk assessment processes.

**KEYWORDS: CAUSALITY – EVIDENCE – CONTROVERSY – RISK ASSESSMENT – SACCHARIN**
The Philosophy of Chemistry Inside the Contemporary Philosophy of Science

MARTÍN LABARCA

Abstract

On the basis of the reductionistic assumption, according to which chemistry can be completely reduced to physics, chemistry is usually considered as a mere phenomenological discipline and, as a consequence, a science of less prestige than physics. Such an assumption has delayed the rising of the philosophy of chemistry as a sub-discipline of the philosophy of science. Fortunately, this situation has begun to change in the last years: the philosophy of chemistry has become a field of a fast development. In the present paper, the main paths of research followed in the contemporary philosophy of chemistry are reviewed, and the potential benefits to the chemical education from the works of philosophers of chemistry are discussed.

Keywords: Philosophy of Chemistry – Reductionism – Models and Chemical Explanations – Education in Chemistry

Building Innovative Spaces: The Work of the “Confederazione Nazionale Artigianato” Experience with the Napoli Glove Makers

PATRICIO NARODOWSKI | NICOLA CAMPOLI

Abstract

In this paper we have analyzed the fundamental elements of the local systems approach as a way to understand the associative forms existing between firms, and the impact on the generating innovative processes, in a city like Naples, where these kind of experiences never have been generalized. In particular, we have studied the work that the “Confederazione Nazionale
“Artigianato” (CNA) realized with the gloves’ maker, and the consortium constituted by a group of them. The case is very interesting because in a very difficult context, this entity is trying to change the years of insufficient mobilization.

The approach used gives importance to particular processes in construction of social space. The central idea is to generate a lot of experiences, also if they are limited and insignificant. It’s the first step to stimulate the proliferation of innovative processes, considering the context parameters. We are interested in the “local systems approach” because of the actual influence this approach has in the debate about the development policies. We want to see also its possible utilization in difficult situations, like the argentine reality, where the industrial structure has a lot of problems and the institutions are inefficient to help in the necessary change.

**Keywords:** Innovation – development – territories – consortium