

ABSTRACTS

The Philosophy of Technology of André Gorz

Fernando Tula Molina

Abstract

The main objective for this paper is to retrieve the philosophical thinking of André Gorz, regarding technology and about the main place that technology could have into the building of an alternate society, different than an industrial one.

The works of André Gorz show a clever critic about industrial society and, specially, about its employment of technology, stressing the central role of the relationship among capital, science and technology. Gorz suggests rejecting the consumerist values attached to contemporary societies, by choosing instead lowering needs, heighten then satisfaction, in order to take advantage of the working time released free by using technology.

Even if it's possible to comprehend Gorz's work within a Marxist frame, their thought –mostly since 1982 onwards, shows some contrast with that from another distinguished Marxist scholar, Andrew Feenberg. Then, in this paper I perform a partial counterpoint among the works of Gorz and Feenberg regarding their understanding of technology's role within society. In order to do so, I will focus on three of the main problems for Gorz's Philosophy of Technology, not addressed by Feenberg; the democracy –which would be decaying, the subject –which would be interchangeable, and the progress –which would be never ending.

KEYWORDS: PHILOSOPHY OF TECHNOLOGY – INDUSTRIAL SOCIETY – CRITICAL

Elements to design technology transfer policies at universities

Darío Gabriel Codner

Abstract

The dramatic technological changes and the thrust of innovation have caused great transformation in society, especially in the university. Universities had to adapt to new ways of knowledge production and to incorporate technology transfer among their main functions. The present article aims to present the trends on technology transfer at Argentinean universities as well as guidelines to policies design in the field.

KEYWORDS: TRANSFER – TECHNOLOGY – UNIVERSITIES – POLICY

Organizational and environmental factors of e-commerce adoption in SME from Cordoba, Argentina

María Verónica Alderete / Carola Jones / Jorge Motta

Abstract

The objective of this paper consists in examining the factors that simultaneously influence electronic commerce adoption. To achieve this goal, an ordered probit regression model is estimated for a sample of 119 SME from Córdoba, Argentina. The paper is based on Jones, Alderete y Motta (2013) that captures, by means of an exploratory-descriptive analysis, the main factors associated with the adoption of e-commerce, among which the firm's objective e-readiness or digital readiness prevails. Results show that e-readiness –objective and subjective, education of the employees, perceived benefits from e-commerce, broadband connection quality and the degree of internalization of the firm significantly affect the probability to adopt e-commerce among commercial and services firms from Córdoba.

KEYWORDS: TECHNOLOGY ADOPTION MODEL – ELECTRONIC COMMERCE –
E-READINESS – COMMERCIAL SECTOR – SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES

The Rockefeller Foundation and its International Health Division's Rio de la Plata and Andean Regional Office: Ideas, realizations, and hindrances (1941-1949)

Karina Inés Ramacciotti

Abstract

This paper examines the activities carried out by the regional Office of Rio de la Plata and the Andean Region of the Rockefeller Foundation with a view to upgrading the training of public health professionals and its staff from 1941 to 1949.

This paper seeks to examine the activities deployed by the Rio de la Plata and Andean Region, and we will also take into account the training of health agents, and the fostering of scientific research.

It stems from the analysis of Lewis Hackett's personal journals since his arrival in Buenos Aires (1941) until his retirement (1949), the annual reports, his speeches, correspondence and his photographic archives. This material is preserved in the Archives of the Rockefeller Foundation in New York. The approach will be comparative as it will enable us to review the way the Rockefeller Foundation saw the region, which aspects were prioritized and which aspects were subject to changes, but saw different results.

KEYWORDS: ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION – INTERNATIONAL HEALTH DIVISION –
TRAINING OF PUBLIC HEALTH AGENTS – RESEARCH IN PUBLIC HEALTH

A point of exteriority: Reflections about the institutional researcher

Carlos F. Greco / Diana Crespo

Abstract

As institutional researchers we split our day in the lab between some experiments, some writing, occasionally some reading, and an excruciating

pile of paperwork to get that extra money to keep our project ongoing. We consider the latter a hindrance to progress, an unbearable distraction, completely unrelated to our main objective scientific interest. This feature creates a tension within our everydayness between the modern scientist we believe we should, but are not allowed to be, and some sort of heretic researcher that does politics by other means. Yet, the institutional researcher we refer to, embody the latter, in other words, the possibility of sending us over to an outside in which the subject is not suppressed, in which we have the possibility of thinking ourselves differently and, for that matter, to reassess how we relate to our research project. This does not advocate for letting the subject back in with an extra load of sociology, politics and/or philosophy of science seminars on the side, but to ascertain that it was always with us in the lab as in immanent “point of exteriority”, a position that is both intimate and yet also “extimate” to science, that it is both within science and, at the same time, it is a movement to its limits.

KEYWORDS: INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCHER – POINT OF EXTERIORITY – ARGENTINA
– SUBJECT

The scientific and scholarly development about the rural within the social sciences at Cuba: an approach

Yisel Herrera Martínez / Teresa Muñoz Gutiérrez

Abstract

The object for this research is the production within Cuban social sciences that is addressed to rural issues. Based on the notion of scientific field –Bourdieu, that complements the normative structure of science –Merton, we identify scientific capitals held by Cuban social scientists as part of the analysis of the field of rural social studies. The introspective approach reveals potential and deficiencies for inclusion in international networks of science, recognizing that scientific producers tend to have only their competitors as clients. The sociology of knowledge is the theoretical-methodological analytical perspective that emphasizes the social construction of knowledge, from external factors and from the internalism. The scientific productions originated from the process of institutionalization of science and show interest in know, analyze and propose alternatives in relation to the agrarian transformations. The struggle for symbolic capital and the scientific authority starts with the definition of the

rural that distinguishes itself as an object of study of academic disciplines; by the functionality given to the results on the part of public policy-makers; the importance, relevance and rigor for insertion in a scientific world system that has its own rules for granting authority.

KEYWORDS: SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION OF KNOWLEDGE – SOCIAL SCIENCES – RURAL STUDIES – SCIENTIFIC CAPITAL – EXTERNALISM – INTERNALISM