The Sociology of Innovation

Abstract
Across the last several decades the sociology of innovation has been a critical perspective for explaining social change and lies at the heart of a number of major theoretical problems. The most important are the character of post-industrial society and the New Economy, the multiple impacts of technology on differentiation and de-differentiation, and the social evolution of society. Two equations explain how innovation is produced and what are its feedbacks. The equivalency of innovation with new knowledge and adaptiveness connects important theoretical problems. The construct of knowledge involves four components: skills, hardware, software, and ideas. Across time the measurement of innovation has become more precise and moved to new venues. The explanation of the determinants has moved from organizations to networks and now to institutional arrangements. To understand the feedback of innovation on society one needs all three levels.