Industrial Ecology and Spaces of Innovation

Edited by the late Ken Green, formerly Professor of Environmental Innovation Management, Alliance Manchester Business School, University of Manchester, UK and Sally Randles, Research Fellow, ESRC Centre for Research on Innovation and Competition (CRIC), Alliance Manchester Business School, University of Manchester, UK

This book explores the disciplinary interfaces and practical implications of working across the two disciplines of industrial ecology (IE) and innovation studies (IS). Both disciplines have something to say about instigating environmental improvement and more sustainable futures. IE is predicated on the idea that social and economic systems mirror, or should be made to mirror, natural ecological systems. Proponents of IE devise models and techniques to trace material and energy resource flows as they move through social and economic systems. They propose policy and management improvements to increase the resource efficiency of such systems. By contrast, IS researchers work with the idea that innovation is a dynamic activity, vital to social and economic change and is shaped by a range of actors in industry, in government and in households.

‘...the editors and authors have put together a provocative volume that challenges us with the reality of how much intellectual effort is still required if we are to reconstruct our material and conceptual models for innovation.’

– Jody A. Roberts, Science and Public Policy

‘This is an especially timely book. Carefully organized and well motivated, its power lies in the explicit effort to ask how industrial ecology and innovation studies do, can and should intersect.’

– Reid Lifset, Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies and editor, Journal of Industrial Ecology

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