

Incubating the incubation cycle: Two approaches to promoting techno-entrepreneurship in weak institutional environments (Making Innovation Policy Work: Learning from Experimentation)

While the field of innovation studies is extensive and rapidly expanding, analysis of innovation policy is much less developed. This chapter examines public interventions to support institutional infrastructure for technoentrepreneurship as an example of an endogenously developing policy process. Mainstream recommendations to support techno-entrepreneurship and innovation clusters focus on best-practice institutions. Consequently, the United States (Silicon Valley, Route 128, etc.), the United Kingdom, Finland, Singapore and Israel emerge as example to emulate. The chapter extends the discussion of these "usual suspects" by examining cases of improbable success: the emergence of Silicon Valley siblings (local ecosystems of innovation) in middle-income economies and localities with a deficient institutional environment. It juxtaposes two public policy approaches to supporting private innovation entrepreneurship: a traditional administrative approach and an emerging search networks approach.

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