

From Innovation to Use

10801128 陳俊鴻

因為老師拷貝給我們的文本翻譯有語意障礙，所以我只有讀原文版，還請老師見諒。

Ten eclectic theses on the historiography of technology were theses addressed by English historicists David Edgerton, whose intention is to mention people studying technology and society from the perspective of not only innovation but use of technology. Ten theses are as following:

- I. The study of the relations of technology and society must necessarily deal with technology which is in widespread use.
- II. The histories of innovation and of technology-in-use are remarkably different, in terms of geography, chronology, and sociology.
- III. The conflation of innovation and technology is especially apparent in national histories. But the nation-state is not the whole world in miniature.
- IV. The innovation-orientation of most studies of technology makes difficult a serious engagement between general history and the history of technology. Conversely, an engagement with general historical problems has produced histories of technology-in-use.
- V. “Technological determinism” is the thesis that a society is determined by the technologies in use. Nevertheless it is usually defined and attacked as the absurd thesis that technical innovation determines social change.
- VI. Technological determinism is primarily a theory of society, not a theory of technology.
- VII. The pervasiveness of a technology is not an absolute measure of its significance. Alternatives should always be taken into account.
- VIII. Invention and innovation rarely lead to use, but use often leads to invention and innovation.
- IX. Just as we should not confuse innovation with technology-in-use, we should not confuse changes in knowledge with knowledge-in-use.
- X. Innovation-centred and knowledge-centred accounts of technology are central to twentieth century culture.

Well...It's too trivial to make any comment...