INNOVATION AND DEVELOPMENT POLICY
MOVING WITH THE TIMES

Recognising policy innovation as an object of study

Carlota Perez
Honorary Professor at the Science and Technology Policy Research Unit (SPRU), University of Sussex, England and at the Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose (IIPP), University College London
Adjunct Professor, TalTech, Estonia
Resident Scholar, Anthemis UK

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- The goal is development – Innovation is an instrument
- From business to socio-political innovation
- Opportunities for development are a moving target
- Separating top-down and bottom-up innovation
THE PROMOTION AND SUPPORT OF INNOVATION
MUST OCCUR WITHIN A DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY
which may contain several directions or missions

Each strategic direction
is likely to require dozens of innovations
from the boldest and most important radical ones
to the minor incremental ones

AND FROM THOSE THAT INVOLVE THE BIG COMPANIES
TO THE BOTTOM-UP ONES THAT LIFT THE POOR

SUCH AN APPROACH REQUIRES
SOCIO-INSTITUTIONAL INNOVATION

Break the silos in government
to cooperate across ministries and local governments

And separate clearly between
institutions and personnel that deal with major projects and big companies
and those that support and promote
bottom-up production and innovation

They require different skills
and different policy instruments
HOW ARE INNOVATION AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES CONNECTED?
CAN INNOVATION POLICY BE MADE FROM AN ‘INNOVATION MINISTRY’?
CAN THEY BE IMPLEMENTED FROM THEIR NARROW REMIT?

How are multi-stakeholder platforms set up?
How are consensus actions designed and arrived at?

The separate silo structures that still characterise ministries and local governments are an inheritance from the old mass production revolution and are not fit for purpose in the information age.

If ministries or councils of science and technology survive they must become trans-ministerial institutions promoting multi-actor collaboration.

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CAN WE TAKE IT FOR GRANTED THAT
SOCIO-INSTITUTIONAL INNOVATION
CAN BE UNDERSTOOD WITH THE SAME THEORY
THAT EXPLAINS BUSINESS INNOVATION?

Have we done the research? Have we done the field work?

Do we realise that, since there is no competition,
the drivers and the measures of success might be fundamentally different?
Do we collaborate with Public Administration researchers?
Do we read them?

ARE WE ASSUMING THAT PUBLIC POLICY INNOVATION IS SIMPLE STUFF?

THE INNOVATION POLICY COMMUNITY
HAS A HUGE BLACK HOLE
REGARDING INSTITUTIONAL INNOVATION

Every publication ends with ‘policy recommendations’
Do we really know how such recommendations are to be implemented?
Don’t they require innovation?

WE ARE IN DEBT WITH THEORY
WE ARE IN DEBT WITH POLICY MAKERS
AND WITH THE POPULATIONS WHOSE LIVES WE WISH TO IMPROVE
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TECHNOLOGICAL REVOLUTIONS IN THE ADVANCED WORLD ARE CONSTANTLY CHANGING WHAT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES CAN DO

The time for import substitution came and went

The time for the leap of the Four Tigers is gone

The time for the rise of China has passed too

Global value chains are now less obvious as an opportunity

The green transition is urgent, but it’s not yet a clear path to competitiveness

Could it be that consumer goods production is moving to the developing world?

Could materials processing be done now in situ with green energy sources?
SUCCESSFUL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES
RESPOND TO THE OPPORTUNITIES
AND BOTH POLICY INNOVATION
AND INNOVATION POLICY MUST BE FIT FOR PURPOSE

AND THERE IS NO GUARANTEE
THAT WHAT WORKED BEFORE WILL WORK AGAIN

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THE INFORMATION REVOLUTION HAS LED TO BOTH GLOBALISATION AND LOCALISATION

Any corner of the territory can ‘develop’ as long as it is connected to the internet

DEVELOPING COUNTRIES CAN ADOPT A POSITIVE DUAL MODEL both looking-out to generate wealth and looking-in to generate well being

INNOVATING BOTH TOP-DOWN AND BOTTOM-UP

AN INTEGRATED DUAL MODEL with converging processes of sustainable growth and innovation

Objective: Growth, employment and foreign exchange generation

State: as active promoter, funder and facilitator of consensus and local initiative

Objective: To improve the quality of life of all urban and rural dwellers

Differentiated development of each portion of the territory based on the local productive vocation, identified or promoted

FOR THE DOMESTIC MARKET OR FOR EXPORT; SUPPORTED BY FULL ACCESS TO INTERNET
POLICY INNOVATION FOR THE GLOBAL GROWTH SECTORS
WILL BE DIFFERENT FROM THE LOCAL GROWTH ONES

And the institutions involved must be different too
as well as the policy instruments

Only with wealth creation can proper redistribution occur
But wealth creation can also be part of ‘predistribution’

INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT IS NOT ABOUT JOB CREATION ONLY
It is also about ‘good life’ creation
It must promote innovation and investment in situ

THE TOWNSHIPS CANNOT WAIT UNTIL FULL DEVELOPMENT IS ACHIEVED

AND OUR JOB AS INNOVATION POLICY SCHOLARS
MUST INVOLVE UNDERSTANDING AND PROMOTING
POLICY AND INSTITUTIONAL INNOVATION
TO SUPPORT ACTION AT BOTH ENDS OF THE SPECTRUM
Thank you!

Website: www.carlotaperez.org
Email: carperez@carlotaperez.org
X:@CarlotaPrzPerez