Social Responses to Large Technical Systems

Control or Anticipation

Edited by

Todd R. La Porte

Social Responses To Large Technical Systems Control Or Anticipation

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Social Responses To Large Technical Systems Control Or Anticipation:

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backgrounds in the empirical study of specific technical areas and a taste for conceptual and theoretical integration

Changing Large Technical Systems Jane Summerton,2021-11-29 This international anthology presents case studies of historical and contemporary transformations of large technical systems such as railways telecommunications electricity and automobiles The authors working at the forefront of historical and social science research on the dynamics of large technical systems analyze how and why these systems undergo change Because of their important roles in contemporary society large technical systems such as railways airlines road systems telecommunications and electric power network share drawing considerable academic and political interest In this collaborative study on processes of change in large technical systems the contributing authors present historical and current case studies of transformation within these systems Working at the forefront of historical and social science research on the dynamics of large technical systems the authors specifically analyze how and why the systems undergo change In some cases new technologies are solving old problems and presenting opportunities for system growth In other areas new regulatory approaches have brought competition and deregulation often posing challenges to system builders The authors also show how the breakup of national boundaries and new corporate strategies for global management of technology are transforming systems in ways that will have significant impacts on all consumers   The Governance of Large Technical Systems Olivier Coutard,2002-01-04 This work examines the governance of large technical systems LTS at firm imdustry and state levels and the interactions between the systems and society In particular international contributors explore the implications of major technological economic and social changes during the last twenty years for traditional forms of LTS governance Their research is centred around the following themes traditional forms of governance new regulatory challenges the governability of complex technologies conceptual issues related to the governance of inter organizational networks   Modeling Human and Organizational Behavior National Research Council,Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education,Board on Human-Systems Integration,Panel on Modeling Human Behavior and Command Decision Making: Representations for Military Simulations,1998-08-31 Simulations are widely used in the military for training personnel analyzing proposed equipment and rehearsing missions and these simulations need realistic models of human behavior This book draws together a wide variety of theoretical and applied research in human behavior modeling that can be considered for use in those simulations It covers behavior at the individual unit and command level At the individual soldier level the topics covered include attention learning memory decisionmaking perception situation awareness and planning At the unit level the focus is on command and control The book provides short medium and long term goals for research and development of more realistic models of human behavior   Innovation Policy and Governance in High-Tech Industries Johannes Bauer,Achim Lang,Volker Schneider,2012-01-05 The book examines the conditions for successful high technology policy from theoretical and empirical perspectives It enhances the predominant national systems of innovation approach to innovation policy with concepts based on new developments in the governance of

complex systems and processes The conceptual framework of complex networks and systems is used to examine national policy approaches in countries that have created environments conducive to high technology industries as well as individual high technology sectors such as biotechnology alternative energy and aerospace Theoretical and empirical contributions are synthesised into lessons for high tech policy and further research **The Governance of Energy Megaprojects** Benjamin K. Sovacool,C. J. Cooper,2013-07-01 Benjamin Sovacool and Christopher Jon Cooper have produced an astonishing and well written book based on extensive original research in twelve countries They explore the technical social political and economic dimensions of four energy megaprojects The large scale of megaprojects always appears to complicate the decision making process and often causes failures Megaprojects may even reinforce corruption and erode democracy It highlights that today s experiences can be explained by statements by Aristotle and Einstein who argue both in their own way that is always wise to take the limits of size into account and to reduce the size of projects wherever this is possible For everybody involved in megaprojects this book must be read Hugo Priemus Delft University of Technology The Netherlands Based on extensive original research this book explores the technical social political and economic dimensions of four Asian energy megaprojects a regional natural gas pipeline network in Southeast Asia a series of hydroelectric dams on the island of Borneo an oil pipeline linking Europe with the Caspian Sea and a very large solar energy array in the Gobi desert This book investigates why energy megaprojects fail to deliver their promised benefits It offers the first comprehensive assessment of the complicated dynamics driving and constraining megaprojects initiated in the rapid scramble for energy resources and efforts to improve energy security The authors approach the assessment of megaprojects from a socio technical angle emphasizing broad issues of political leadership regulation financing interest group opposition and environmental impact as well as conventional technological factors such as engineering design and project management The Governance of Energy Megaprojects will prove insightful for academics concerned about energy policy energy security environmental impact and technology assessment But the book should prove equally compelling to those engaged in the practical management and implementation of large scale energy projects anywhere in the world **Patient Safety** Sidney Dekker,2016-04-19 Increased concern for patient safety has put the issue at the top of the agenda of practitioners hospitals and even governments The risks to patients are many and diverse and the complexity of the healthcare system that delivers them is huge Yet the discourse is often oversimplified and underdeveloped Written from a scientific human factors **Science, History and Social Activism** Garland E. Allen,Roy M. MacLeod,2013-03-14 To earn a degree every doctoral candidate should go out to Harvard Square find an audience and explain his or her dissertation Everett Mendelsohn s worldly advice to successive generations of students whether apocryphal or real has for over forty years spoken both to the essence of his scholarship and to the role of the scholar Possibly no one has done more to establish the history of the life sciences as a recognized university discipline in the United States and to inspire a critical concern for the ways in which science and

technology operate as central features of Western society This book is both an act of homage and of commemoration to Professor Mendelsohn on his 70th birthday As befits its subject the work it presents is original comparative wide ranging and new Since 1960 Everett Mendelsohn has been identified with Harvard Univer sity and with its Department of the History of Science Those that know him as a teacher will also know him as a scholar In 1968 he began and after 30 years has just bequeathed to others the editorship of the Journal of the History of Biology among the earliest and one of the most important publications in its field At the same time he has been a pioneer in the social history and sociology of science He has formed particularly close working relationships with colleagues in Sweden and Germany as witnessed by his editorial presence in the Sociology of Science Yearbook **Foundations of Safety Science** Sidney Dekker,2019-04-09 How are today s hearts and minds programs linked to a late 19th century definition of human factors as people s moral and mental deficits What do Heinrich s unsafe acts from the 1930 s have in common with the Swiss cheese model of the early 1990 s Why was the reinvention of human factors in the 1940 s such an important event in the development of safety thinking What makes many of our current systems so complex and impervious to Tayloristic safety interventions Foundations of Safety Science covers the origins of major schools of safety thinking and traces the heritage and interlinkages of the ideas that make up safety science today Features Offers a comprehensive overview of the theoretical foundations of safety science Provides balanced treatment of approaches since the early 20th century showing interlinkages and cross connections Includes an overview and key points at the beginning of each chapter and study questions at the end to support teaching use Uses an accessible style using technical language where necessary Concentrates on the philosophical and historical traditions and assumptions that underlie all safety approaches **The Challenger Launch Decision** Diane Vaughan,2016-01-04 An in depth account of the events and personal actions which led to a great tragedy in the history of America s space program James D Smith former Solid Rocket Booster Chief NASA Marshall Space Flight Center When the Space Shuttle Challenger exploded on January 28 1986 millions of Americans became bound together in a single historic moment Many still vividly remember exactly where they were and what they were doing when they heard about the tragedy Diane Vaughan recreates the steps leading up to that fateful decision contradicting conventional interpretations to prove that what occurred at NASA was not skullduggery or misconduct but a disastrous mistake Why did NASA managers who not only had all the information prior to the launch but also were warned against it decide to proceed In retelling how the decision unfolded through the eyes of the managers and the engineers Vaughan uncovers an incremental descent into poor judgment supported by a culture of high risk technology She reveals how and why NASA insiders when repeatedly faced with evidence that something was wrong normalized the deviance so that it became acceptable to them In a new preface Vaughan reveals the ramifications for this book and for her when a similar decision making process brought down NASA s Space Shuttle Columbia in 2003 Vaughn finds the traditional explanation of the Challenger accident to be profoundly unsatisfactory One by one she unravels the conclusions of the Rogers

Commission The New York Times A landmark study Atlantic Vaughn gives us a rare view into the working level realities of NASA The cumulative force of her argument and evidence is compelling Scientific American *Rational Accidents* John Downer,2024-01-16 An unflinching look at the unique challenges posed by complex technologies we cannot afford to let fail and why the remarkable achievements of civil aviation can help us understand those challenges Nuclear reactors deep sea drilling platforms deterrence infrastructures these are all complex and formidable technologies with the potential to fail catastrophically In Rational Accidents John Downer outlines a new perspective on technological failure arguing that undetectable errors can lurk in even the most rigorous and rational assessments of these systems due to the inherent limits of engineering tests and models Downer finds that it should be impossible from an epistemological viewpoint to achieve the near perfect reliability that we require of our most safety critical technologies There is however one such technology that demonstrably appears to achieve these impossible reliabilities jetliners Downer looks closely at civil aviation and how it has reckoned with the problem of failure He finds that the way we conceive of jetliner reliability hides the real practices by which it is achieved And he shows us why those practices are much less transferrable across technological domains than we are led to believe Fully understanding why jetliners don t crash he concludes should lead us to doubt the safety of other ultra reliable technologies A unique and sobering exploration of technological reliability from an STS perspective Rational Accidents is essential reading for understanding why our most safety critical technologies are even more dangerous than we believe Random Noise Georgina Poole,Sidney Dekker,2024-06-10 In the realm of safety management this book embarks on a profound exploration of how the political economy was reshaped in the last two decades Much like privatization deregulation and financialization altered the economic landscape this narrative unveils how safety management has been affected by the intertwined dynamics of asset underinvestment privatization self regulation workplace flexibilization and market driven policies This book the second installment of a thought provoking trilogy on the consequences of neoliberalism mirrors the political economy s promotion of the private sector s role in the economy Just as neoliberalism amplified and accelerated the mechanisms of human made disasters in complex systems this narrative lays bare the heightened potential for safety misfortunes when governed by market driven principles As the story unfolds the book delves into the concept of synoptic legibility in safety management akin to how the political economy distilled its essence into privatization and deregulation The authors scrutinize the consequences of translating safety measures into rigid targets unveiling how this shift can distort the integrity of safety metrics and inadvertently harm individuals Drawing parallels with historical blunders such as England s window tax the book contemplates the precarious nature of equating simplified metrics with safety achievements Much like the political economy s acceptable risk renegotiations it examines how the pursuit of safety through metrics and surveillance can lead to manufactured insecurity eroding trust autonomy and professionalism In Random Noise Poole and Dekker extend this reach once again writing for all managers board members organization leaders consultants practitioners researchers

lecturers students and investigators curious to understand the genuine nature of organizational and safety performance

   Osiris, Volume 38 James Evans,Adrian Johns,2023-07-18 Perceptively explores the shifting intersections between algorithmic systems and human practices in the modern era How have algorithmic systems and human practices developed in tandem since 1800 This volume of Osiris deftly addresses the question dispelling along the way the traditional notion of algorithmic code and human craft as natural opposites Instead algorithms and humans have always acted in concert depending on each other to advance new knowledge and produce social consequences By shining light on alternative computational imaginaries Beyond Craft and Code opens fresh space in which to understand algorithmic diversity its governance and even its conservation The volume contains essays by experts in fields extending from early modern arithmetic to contemporary robotics Traversing a range of cases and arguments that connect politics historical epistemology aesthetics and artificial intelligence the contributors collectively propose a novel vocabulary of concepts with which to think about how the history of science can contribute to understanding today s world Ultimately Beyond Craft and Code reconfigures the historiography of science and technology to suggest a new way to approach the questions posed by an algorithmic culture not only improving our understanding of algorithmic pasts and futures but also unlocking our ability to better govern our present   Chaos and Complexity Theory for Management: Nonlinear Dynamics Banerjee, Santo,2012-11-30 Although chaos theory refers to the existence between seemingly random events it has been gaining the attention of science technology and managements fields The shift from traditional procedures to the dynamics of chaos and complexity theory has resulted in a new element of complexity thinking allowing for a greater capability for analyzing and understanding key business processes Chaos and Complexity Theory for Management Nonlinear Dynamics explores chaos and complexity theory and its relationship with the understanding of natural chaos in the business environment Utilizing these theories aids in comprehending the development of businesses as a complex adaptive system   *Coordinating Technology* Susanne K. Schmidt,Raymund Werle,1998 In Coordinating Technology Susanne Schmidt and Raymund Werle present three case studies that highlight the actors the process the politics and the influence exerted by international organizations in the construction of standards The case studies concern the standards for facsimile terminals and transmission videotex a service that with the exception of the French Minitel service largely failed and electronic mail Schmidt and Werle follow each story from the realization by certain actors of the need for a standard through complex negotiation processes involving many economic political and social interests to the final agreement on a standard In their analysis of these cases they emphasize the many ways in which the processes are embedded in institutional structures and argue for the value of an institutionalist approach to technology studies   **Linking Networks: The Formation of Common Standards and Visions for Infrastructure Development** Hans-Liudger Dienel,2016-05-06 Presenting recent research on the international integration of infrastructures in Europe this book combines general and methodological

chapters and examples from different a variety of sectors such as transport electricity and communication networks Particular focus is on the contrast between the Europe of nation states of the nineteenth century up to 1914 and the emerging integrated Europe after World War II Additional contributions provide perspectives from beyond Europe The wide range of topics gives a good overview of the different challenges posed and the strategies employed in each sector to establish internationally compatible networks procedures and standards This work strengthens comparative research as a complement to the detailed analysis of singular cases that often characterises previous works in this field Methodologically it therefore contributes to the progress of tools and strategies for comparative historical research Part of the emerging research area dealing with the mechanisms of international collaboration this book brings together recent research from European integration history policy studies political economy and cultural studies Considering the growing intensity of international collaboration and exchange in many parts of social and economic life it is also of topical interest

Opportunities in Neuroscience for Future Army Applications National Research Council,Division on Engineering and Physical Sciences,Board on Army Science and Technology,Committee on Opportunities in Neuroscience for Future Army Applications,2009-07-16 Advances and major investments in the field of neuroscience can enhance traditional behavioral science approaches to training learning and other applications of value to the Army Neural behavioral indicators offer new ways to evaluate how well an individual trainee has assimilated mission critical knowledge and skills and can also be used to provide feedback on the readiness of soldiers for combat Current methods for matching individual capabilities with the requirements for performing high value Army assignments do not include neuropsychological psychophysiological neurochemical or neurogenetic components simple neuropsychological testing could greatly improve training success rates for these assignments Opportunities in Neuroscience for Future Army Applications makes 17 recommendations that focus on utilizing current scientific research and development initiatives to improve performance and efficiency collaborating with pharmaceutical companies to employ neuropharmaceuticals for general sustainment or enhancement of soldier performance and improving cognitive and behavioral performance using interdisciplinary approaches and technological investments An essential guide for the Army this book will also be of interest to other branches of military national security and intelligence agencies academic and commercial researchers pharmaceutical companies and others interested in applying the rapid advances in neuroscience to the performance of individual and group tasks **The State in Western Europe** Wolfgang C. Mueller,Vincent Wright,2019-08-15 Focusing exclusively on the functional rather than the territorial level this book reveals that the reshaping of the state in western Europe involves different policies across Europe and conflicting tendencies in the impact of the various reform programmes Whilst the state may be in retreat in some respects its activity may be increasing in others And nowhere not even in Britain has its key decision making role been seriously undermined

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