

“CHALLENGES OF TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION: IS A MORAL COMPASS NEEDED?”

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Abstract

The discussion into technology and innovation continues to expand. Technology led innovation and organisational transformation refers to the process by which new products and processes are generated. When emergent technologies are deployed to bring about new ways of making existing products and services 'better', this is called process innovation. When they include entirely new products and services, the change is referred to as product/service innovation and, when something so disruptive changes how we work, rest and play, this is often termed paradigm shift based innovation.

A number of challenges and concerns still exist today with regards to our understanding and sense making of technology infused innovations. In this session, some thoughts and observations will be explored such as; hidden technological innovation, what is being measured and how, gender based technological innovation, how do we 'spot' emergent technologies, financial innovation, socially responsible innovation and new organisational forms and model of innovation to promote, enhance and deliver technology transfer. One developing concept is the notion that all IT led technology innovation is a good thing. We will explore/interrogate this further looking at the relationship between technology adoption and potential addiction factors of 'Generation Y' users as archetypical digital natives. We will also explore the possible need for us, as IT professionals, to incorporate a moral compass as technology led innovation continues to expand and permeate our everyday lives.