

# The Three Methodologies & Three States of Knowledge Underlying Technological Innovation

Joseph P. Lane, Director  
Center on Knowledge Translation for Technology Transfer  
<http://kt4tt.buffalo.edu>  
University at Buffalo, SUNY, USA

## 3 Key Points -

- Technological Knowledge exists in Three States:
  - Conceptual Discovery
  - Prototype Invention
  - Commercial Innovation
- Methodologies each generate Knowledge in One State:
  - Scientific Research
  - Engineering Development
  - Industrial Production

*Opinion: Successful STI Policies require clarification between -- and parity among -- these basic concepts.*

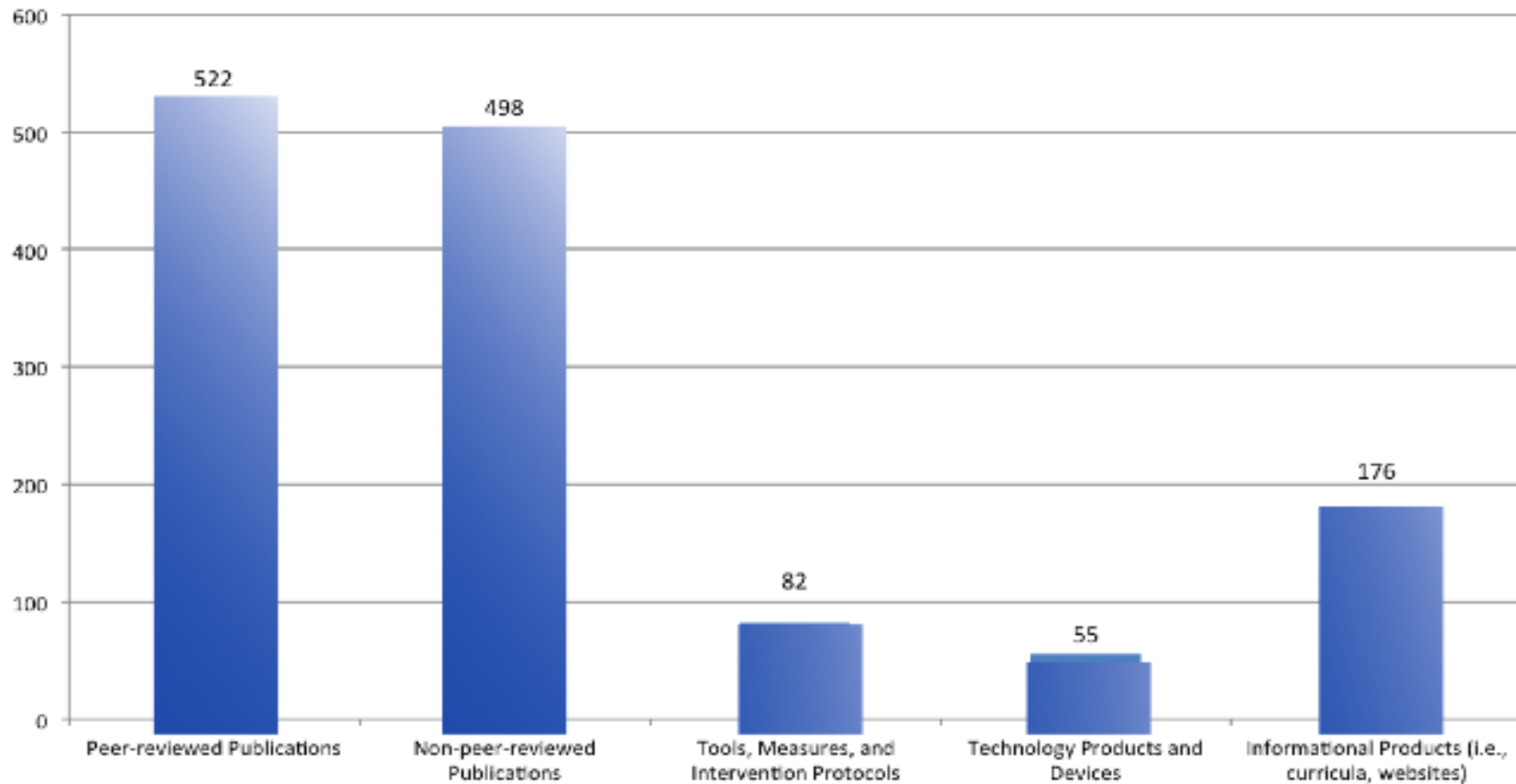
# Why does this matter to you?

- Under SECIS, the CTI Renato Archer is tasked with creating CNRTA.
- This national network of cooperative Research, Development Innovation in AT, is supposed to have beneficial impacts!
- But . . . similar networks in North America and Europe are benefitting government and academia -- not industry or society!

*CNRTA can do better!*

# NIDRR/USDE 2013 Outputs

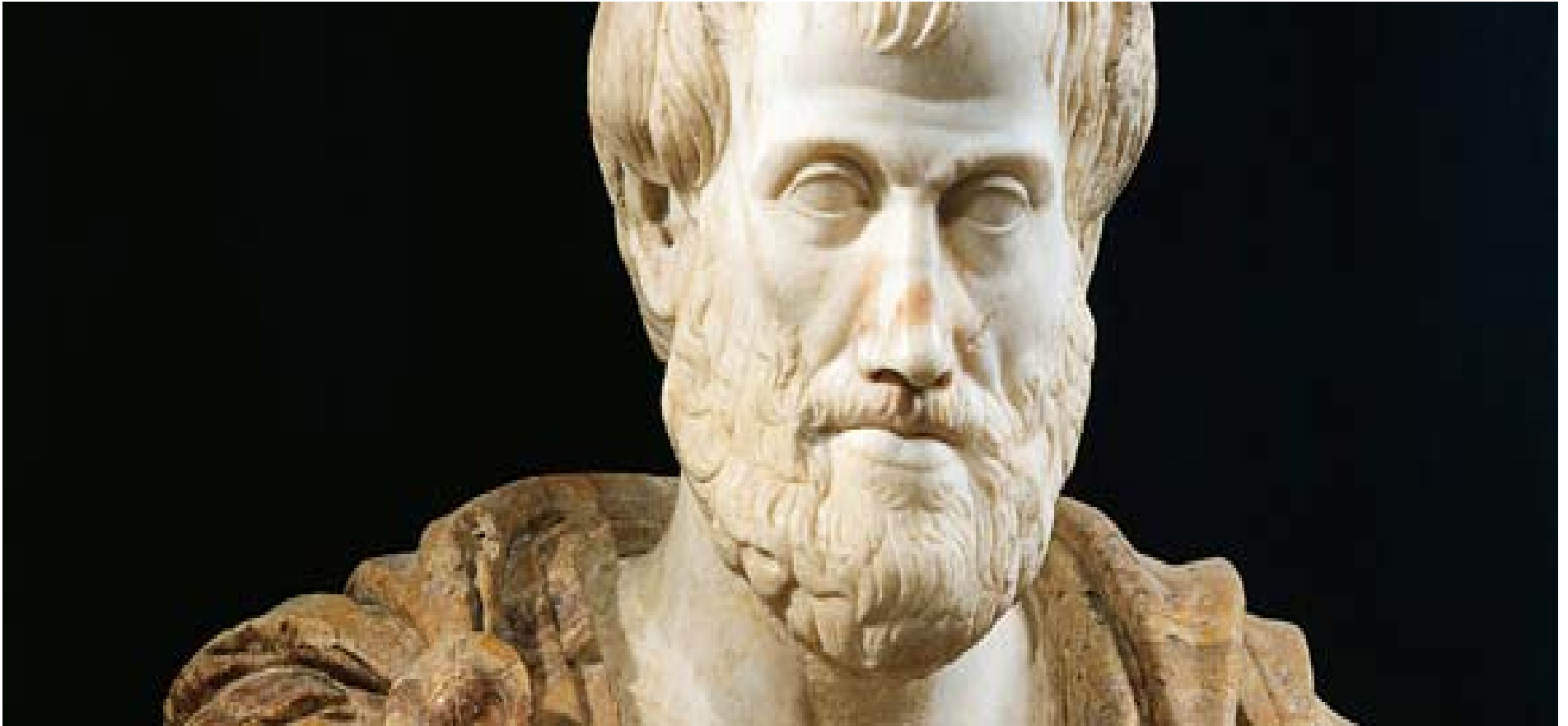
Chart 7: The Number of Different Products Generated by NIDRR Grants in FY 2013



# Seminar Organization

1. A Typology of Knowledge States in Ancient Greece.
2. The Evolution of Structured Methodologies to Generate Knowledge States.
3. The Gradual Co-Mingling of Sectors, Methods, Outputs and Terminology.
4. Resolving the Clash of Values through Enlightened Self-Interest.
5. The Muddled Mess of Technological Innovation in Theory and Practice.
6. Restoring Parity in Methods to Achieve Intended Results.

# *A Typology of Knowledge States in Ancient Greece*



*“It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it.”*

# Aristotle's Knowledge Typology

- *Five types “virtues” of thought (350 B.C.):*
  - Technê
  - Epistêmê
  - Phronêsis
  - Sophia
  - Nous



# Three are the core elements of Technological Innovation

- *Epistêmê* – represents the body of knowledge or a system of understanding that provides a basis for generating concepts and theories – a fact.
- *Technê* – represents the body of knowledge or system of understanding that provides the skill to do or create something tangible – an artifact.
- Phronêsis - combines the facts of epistêmê and the skill of technê in a manner that improves quality of life – a product and its experience.

# The Evolution of Structured Methodologies to Generate Knowledge in Specific States.

# *Epistêmê*

Epistêmê → Scientific Research Method.

The Method's intended output is knowledge in the state of a novel *conceptual discovery*.

## Scientific Research Methodology

Designed to generate objectively observed outputs in the knowledge state of Conceptual Discoveries.

The first 'new to the world' articulation of a Conceptual Discovery – a know what -- has primary value as novel intellectual property described in scholarly publications.

Ownership and control of this IP is protected only by international *copyright* law.

# Discovery State of Knowledge

*Purpose:* **Scientific Research** methods create new to the world knowledge.

*Process:* Empirical analysis reveals novel insights regarding key variables, precipitated by push of curiosity or pull of gap in field.

*Output:* **Conceptual Discovery** expressed as manuscript or presentation – the ‘*know what.*’

*Legal IP Status:* Copyright protection only.

*Value:* **Novelty** as first articulation of a new relationship/effect contributed to knowledge base.

# *Technê*

Technê → Engineering Development  
Methodology.

The Method's intended output is knowledge  
in the state of a *tangible invention*.

# Engineering Development Methodology

Designed to generate pre-determined functional outputs in the knowledge state of tangible Prototype Inventions.

The primary value of a 'new to the world' Prototype Invention is the demonstration of feasibility – a know how.

Ownership and control of IP is protected by international *patent* law.

# Invention State of Knowledge

*Purpose:* **Engineering Development** methods combine/apply knowledge as functional artifacts.

*Process:* Trial and error experimentation/testing demonstrates proof-of-concept, initiated through opportunity supply or operational demand forces.

*Output:* **Prototype Invention** claimed and embodied as functional prototype - the '*know how.*'

*Legal IP Status:* Patent protection.

*Value:* **Feasibility** of tangible invention as a demonstration of the **Novelty** of concept.



# *Phronêsis*

Phronêsis → Industrial Production  
Methodology.

The Method's intended output is knowledge  
in the state of a *commercial product/service  
innovation*.

# ***Industrial Production Methodology***

Designed to create and deliver outputs in the knowledge state of Commercial Innovations.

The primary value of a newly deployed Commercial Innovation is utility; monetary utility to the manufacturer and functional utility to the consumer – a *know why* – as motivation for the commercial transaction.

Ownership and control of IP is protected by international *trademark* law.

# Innovation State of Knowledge

*Purpose:* **Industrial Production** methods codify knowledge in products/components positioned as new/improved products/services in the marketplace.

*Process:* Systematic specification of components and attributes yields final form.

*Output:* **Market Innovation** embodied as viable device/service in a defined context, initiated through a commercial market opportunity – ‘*know why.*’

*Legal IP Status:* Trademark protection.

*Value:* **Utility** defined as revenue to company and function to customers + **Novelty + Feasibility**

# Government (public) funding for Knowledge Creation followed Two Tracks

- **Track 1: Grant-based Scientific Research Programs** – Exploration to discover new knowledge about physical world (Science/Medicine).
  - *Grant Scholarship → Peer Review System → Publish for Tenure.*
- **Track 2: Contract R&D for Production Programs** – Application of S&E to generate products with national value (Defense/Energy):
  - *Contract Production → Performance Specifications → Sell for Profit.*
- *BOTH Tracks work very well - because their respective expectations, systems and incentives are closely and properly aligned.*

# Government Grants vs. Contracts

- Grants permit open exploration as deemed appropriate by investigator, while Contracts specific deliverables, milestones and requirements.
- Typically, Grants go to universities while Contracts go to corporations.
- Grants pay direct and overhead costs to conduct the work, while Contracts pay costs, a profit margin and a commitment to buy the output.

# R-D-P Methods embody Values

- Each method has a unique purpose, underlying principles and assumptions, education and training requirements, certification of mastery and legal status.
- Each method's outputs are valued differently by sectors within society, as are society's expectations for their contributions.
- Aristotle's typology reflected pure states of knowledge, while in the modern world interest groups coalesced around – and sought to influence – each state of knowledge.

## Marcos Pinotti Barbosa - Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais - UFMG



**lab.bio**  
laboratório de bioengenharia

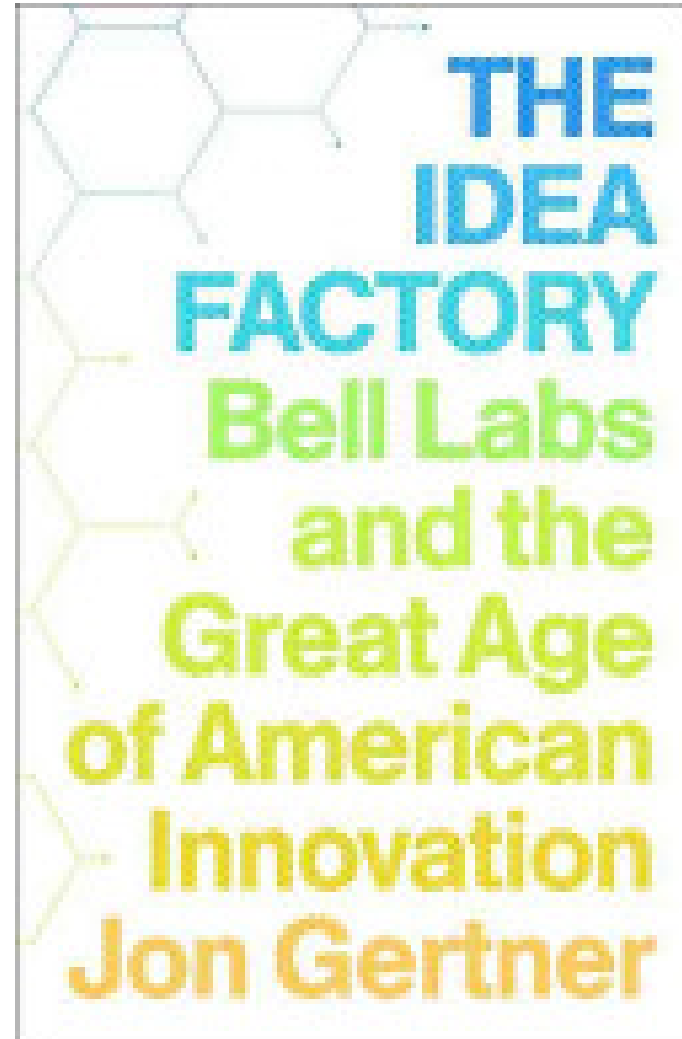
# A Gradual Co-Mingling of Sectors, Methods, Outputs and Terminology.



# 1880's – 1930's

- Inventor/Entrepreneurs established “R&D” laboratories to move beyond cut-and-try techniques:
  - Eastern Dynamite Co. (Al DuPont, 1895);
  - Menlo Park Lab (T. Edison, 1876).
- Scientists, engineers and managers moved between the industrial, academic and government sectors commensurate with the pace of technology-oriented discoveries and technology-based inventions.
- The private sector sponsored “Managed R&D” conducted by S&E personnel with practical and theoretical expertise.

AT&T's monopoly position allowed it to freely sponsor basic and applied science (Bell Labs) linked directly to New Product Innovations (Western Electric).



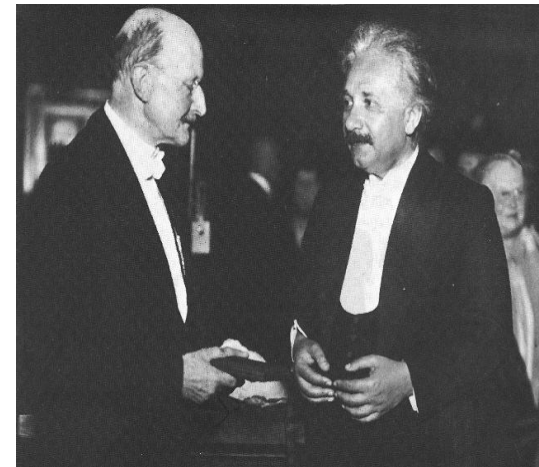
## Pre-1940's Trends in USA

- Leading experts readily moved between economic sectors by serving as New Product Development Managers, University Faculty, Deans & Presidents, or Government department heads, Cabinet officers & Presidential advisors. Many became independent inventors and some became serial entrepreneurs.
- Private sector activity drove most technological innovation as government was relatively small and universities were primarily privately funded.
- This revolving door of experts became more common as technology-oriented discoveries and technology-based inventions multiplied.

## Trends in Europe

European experienced the same co-mingling as individual nations sought to compete within the continent's markets and to compete globally.

Germany's Physikalisch-Technische Reichsanstalt (1895) linked scientists (Albert Einstein & Max Planck) with major corporations (Siemens AG, Krupp & Zeiss).



The United Kingdom created the Committee of the Privy Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (1915) to compete with S&E advances in Germany and in France.

# WWII Period 1935 - 1945

- Germany's rapid conquests demonstrated their superior military technologies (ballistics, aeronautics, communications, guidance, detection, telemetry etc.) .

*“Depend upon it, sir, when a man knows he is to be hanged in a fortnight, it concentrates his mind wonderfully.” -- Samuel Johnson 1709-1784*

- The threat of global domination focused the minds of Allied leaders – with little concern about the relative contributions of scientists, engineers and corporations.

## U.S. National Defense *Research* Committee



Seated, L-R: Brigadier General [George Strong](#), [James Conant](#), [Vannevar Bush](#), [Richard Tolman](#), [Frank Jewett](#); standing: [Karl Compton](#), [Irvin Stewart](#), and Rear Admiral [Harold Bowen](#). Missing is [Conway Coe](#), the Commissioner of Patents.

Success!! The mobilization of all sectors in the managed pursuit of clearly articulated goals.

# Vision for Innovation

***Science: The Endless Frontier*** - Dr. Vannevar Bush (1945): *Focus cross-sector resources on targeted socio-economic issues.*

*What happened instead?*

Despite ancient and clear distinctions between Episteme & Techne, the two underlying Methodologies were merged as “Research & Development” (R&D) in the late 1940’s.

# Special Interests Intervened

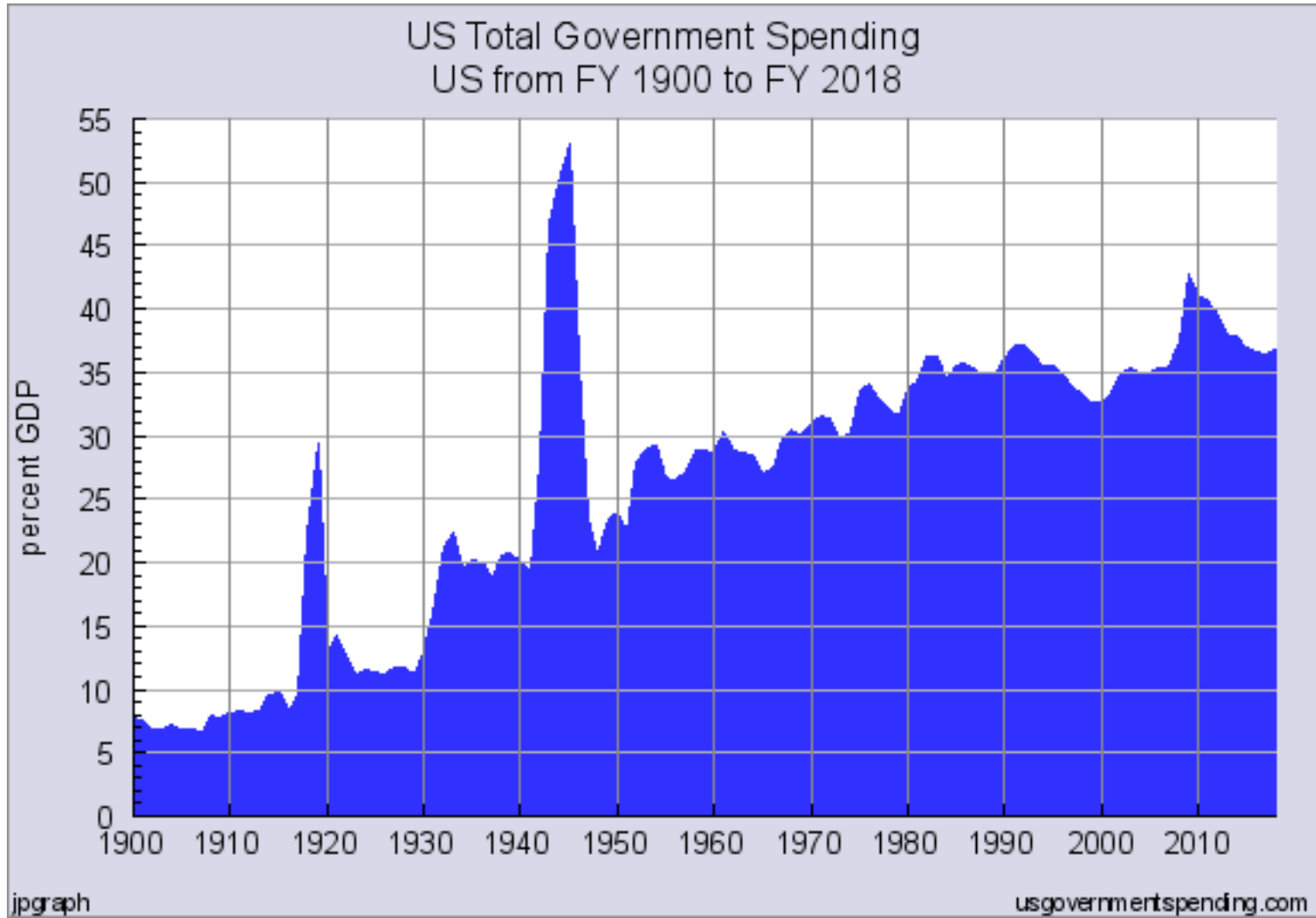
The U.S. Congress set about establishing and expanding a plethora of agencies and programs lacking a central focus or guiding agenda. Pork Barrel politics grew.

Each new Government agency and program obtained more funding and more staff. Government grew.

The U.S. university system positioned itself – through the Linear Model of Innovation – to be the conduit for public revenues. Academia grew.

President Eisenhower’s caution about the “Military-Industrial Complex went unheeded. Defense Industry grew.





# Post WW II: 1945 – 1965

- Economic boom in U.S.
- Reconstruction in Europe and Asia.
- Cold War between U.S. and Russia.
- Space Race.

All accelerated pace of technological innovation for both national and consumer markets. Plenty of public and private money for expansion – so no concern for distinctions between “R” and “D”.

# Bureaucratic/Academic Complex



Caption: Dr. Vannevar Bush (l), President Harry S. Truman (c ), James B. Conant, President, Harvard University, USA.

# 1960's – A Clash of Values

- Military & Industry - Contention over resource allocations caused the U.S. Defense Industry to challenge the Linear Model of Innovation:  
***(DOD's Project Hindsight)***

- Academia & Government – The findings were successfully countered by a set of ad hoc studies disguised as scholarship:

***(NSF's TRACES)***

# Solution: Throw *more* money at problem!

- Government responds for calls to increase innovation by channeling even larger allocations to the academic sector -- doubling agency budgets over short timeframes.
- Established metrics for innovation were simply surrogate measures of other logic model elements:
  - Government expenditures & University Awards = inputs.
  - Level of sponsored research activity = process.
  - Bibliometrics & Patents = Outputs

*Perhaps no one anticipated the long-term erosion to a nation's pace of technological innovation, especially because the effect was subtle and gradual.*

# The Muddled Mess of Technological Innovation in Theory and Practice.

## Public Support for Knowledge Creation

- **Grant-based Scientific Research Programs** – Exploration to discover new knowledge about physical world (science/medicine).  
*Grant-based Scholarship → Peer System → Publish for Tenure.*
- **Contract R&D for Production Programs** – Application of S&E to deliver specified products with national value (defense/energy):  
*Contract Production → Performance Specs → Sell for Profit.*
- *BOTH of these programs work well - because their respective expectations, systems and incentives are closely and properly aligned.*
- **Sponsored “R&D” for “S&T” Innovation** – Generate S&E outputs for commercial exploitation to generate beneficial socio-economic impacts.  
*Scholarly outputs for tenure ≠ Corporate requirements for profit*
  - HYBRID programs have many problems because their expectations, systems and incentives are misaligned or even incongruent!

# What are these Hybrid programs saying?

- *That academia is better equipped than industry to deliver value for money?*
- *That tenured/career employees should dictate the rules of innovation for the private sector?*
- *That corporations are devoid of ideas for new products and services?*
- *That students and small businesses have the primary insight into societal needs?*
  - *Yet these absurd premises remain unchallenged.*



# Hybrid Programs intending Impact

- **United States –**
  - All SBIR & STTR Programs; **NSF** – Engineering Research Centers (ERC); Industry/University Cooperative Research Centers (I/U CRC); Innovation Corps (I-Corp); **NIH** – Program on Public/Private Partnerships; **NIST** – Technology Innovation Program (TIP); **DoEd** – Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers (RERC); Field Initiated Development (FID).
- **Canada –**
  - Natural Science and Engineering Research Council (NSERC); Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR).
- **European Union –**
  - Research Framework Programme; Competiveness; Innovation Framework Programme.
- **Latin America & Southeast Asia - CNRTA??**

## False Dichotomies/Erroneous Contractions

- *Supply/Science/Technology Push vs. Demand/Market/Society Pull*
- *Research & Development (R&D)*
  - *Science & Technology (S&T)*
- *Discovery/Insight/Invention/Innovation*
- *Scholarly vs. Societal: Outputs/Outcomes/Impacts*
- *Expenditures & Bibliometrics vs. New Net Wealth*
  - Counting what is countable vs. Counting what matters.

# Silly Metrics based on Vague Models

- $\sum (R + D) / GDP = \text{Innovation}$
- $\sum (95\%R + 5\%D) \neq \sum (5\%R + 95\%D)$
- $\sum (X\%R + Y\%D) \neq \text{Products/Services}$

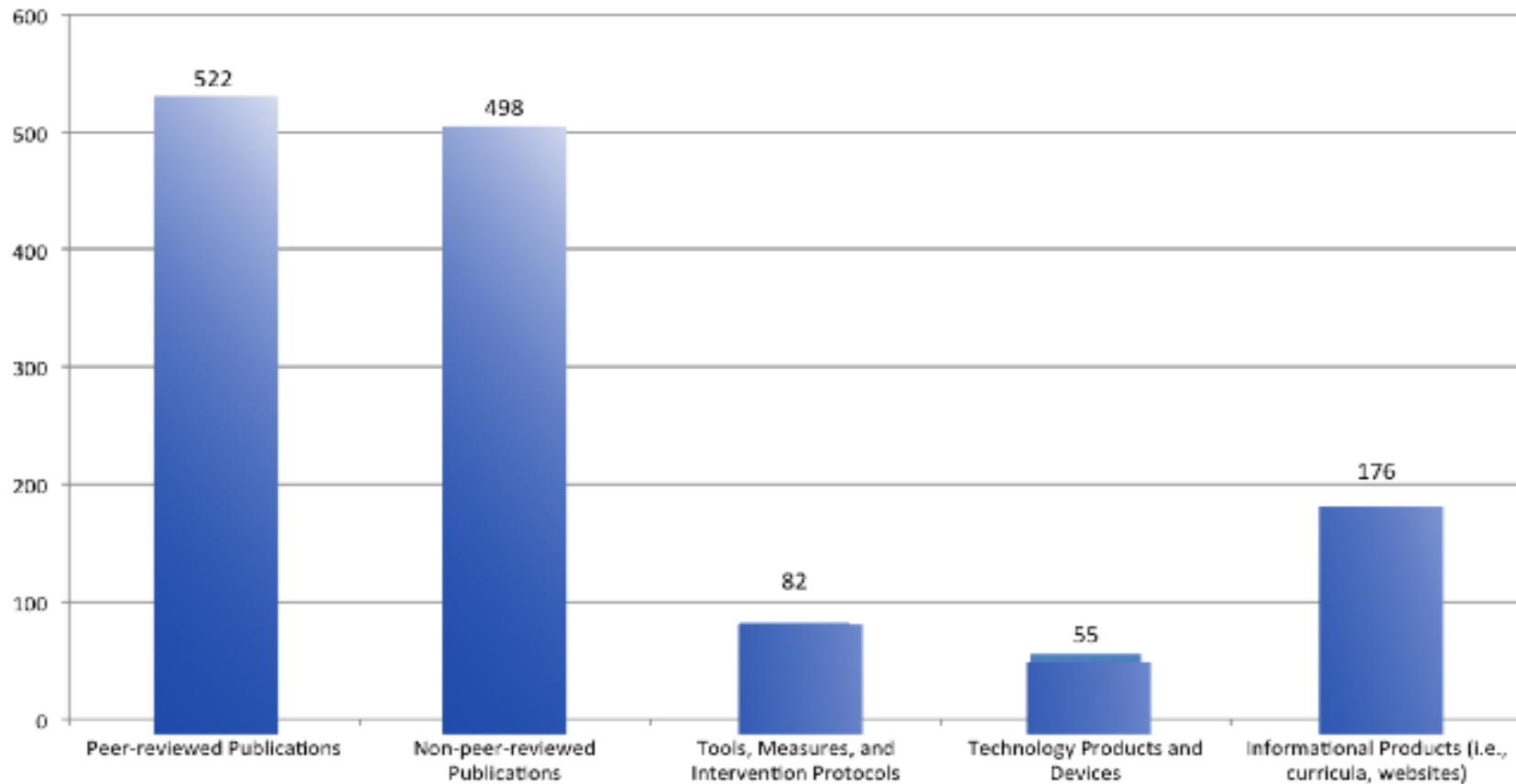
Such measures co-mingle inputs, ignore key factors, and ignore causal links.

# Newest government models lack utility (description, explanation, prediction, control). (<http://www.ott.nih.gov/PDFs/NIH-TT-Plan-2013.pdf>)



# NIDRR/USDE 2013 Outputs

Chart 7: The Number of Different Products Generated by NIDRR Grants in FY 2013



# So why do they persist?

- Largesse of public funding since the 1940's shifted power and influence over budgets from corporate to non-corporate sectors.
- Distortion of V. Bush's national R&D proposal by entrenched agency interests:
  - Military/Industrial AND Academic/Bureaucratic Complex
- Perpetuation of false paradigms by beneficiaries in government and academia (Linear Model).
- Passive acceptance of “aspirational” language and unintended consequences by general public.

# Restoring Parity in Methods to Achieve Intended Results.

# Clarifying the Muddled Mess in STI Policy

- *Establish Terms, Definitions & Proofs:* These are essential yet currently absent from STI Policy.
- *Acknowledge Knowledge States & Transitions:* Methods of knowledge creation and output state attributes dictate opportunity and constraints for knowledge kernel.
- *Apply proper transitions between Knowledge States:* Ensure models, methods and metrics are congruent and designed to communicate information based on rigor and relevance, *not on rhetoric.*
- Apply the scholarly values of demonstration, replication, skepticism and peer review to all elements and actors.



# Innovation & Impact

- Traditionally, each sector defined terms in own narrow context, unconcerned with downstream market activities or broader societal benefits, comfortable in status quo budgets and paradigms. But . . .
- U.S. National Science Board (2012) – “*Innovation is defined as the introduction of new or significantly improved products (goods or services), processes organizational methods, and marketing methods, in internal business practices or in the open marketplace.*” (OECD/Eurostat, 2005).

# “Innovation” Impact implies Utility

Public support for investment in technology-based *innovations* grounded in 3 expectations:

- ✓ New/improved devices/services with economies of scale that contribute to societal quality of life.
- ✓ Sufficient return on investment through sales to sustain company, pay taxes and compete globally to generate new net wealth.
- ✓ Benefits realized in short-term (5–10 yrs).

*Innovation’s context is Societal Impact via Commercial Marketplace.*

# Commercial Market is path to Utility

- Industry survives in competitive system by translating knowledge into market utility through Production methods (beyond R&D).
- Utility = Money to Seller / Function to Buyer.
- **No \$ale** – Research discoveries are freely published and globally disseminated, while Development prototypes lack commercial hardening or economies of scale.

*R and D outputs ≠ Market Innovation.*

# Importance of Untangling Innovation Terms

- Each Methodology has its own rigor and jargon.
- Actors are trained and operate in one Method and tend to over-value that one Method.
- Academic & Government sectors dominate “STI” Policy at the expense of Industry – the only sector with time and money constraints. . .
- Methods are actually *inter-dependent*, while traditional dichotomies are all *complementary* factors supporting innovation outcomes/impacts.

# Relational Attributes from Literature

<i>Episteme</i>	<i>Techne</i>	<i>Phronesis</i>
Know what	Know how	Know why
Science	Engineering	Industry
Research	Development	Production
Intellectual	Technological	Commercial
Long term	Mid term	Short term
Concept	Prototype	Product
Novelty	Feasibility	Utility
Translation	Transfer	Transaction
<b>DISCOVERY</b>	<b>INVENTION</b>	<b>INNOVATION</b>

# The Way Forward: Integrate *Conceptual* but Differentiate *Operational*

- *Consider three distinct states:* Know role of Research, Development and Production methods in context of each project – plan and budget accordingly.
- *Engage Industry early:* Government/Academic projects intended to benefit society fail to cross gaps (death valley vs. Darwinian sea) to business & open markets.
- *Apply evidence-based framework:* Link three methods; Communicate knowledge in three states; Integrate key stakeholder who will determine eventual success.

*Need to Knowledge (NtK) Model*

## Related Publications

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