What stories have been told about the beginnings of this STS formation?

Prior to World War II, Japan had traditions in Marxist criticisms of science and technology (and, more generally, industrialization) and Heideggerian philosophies of technology (e.g., Kiyoshi Miki and Jun Tosaka, the "left wing" of the Kyoto School). After being shut down by WWII, they were revitalized around the 1950s and 1960s, influenced by concerns related to rapid economic growth—especially kōgai (pollution) as its byproducts. Environmental sociology developed against this background, and became one of the important origins of Japan's STS. Japan's anthropologies of science and technology have several roots, including: Tadao Umesao's studies of civilization and material culture in the 1960s, Akira Adachi's anthropology of (or against) development, and Masato Fukushima's cognitive science.

Origins

Anthropologies of Science and Technology in Japan



Taguchi, Yoko and Shuhei Kimura. 2018. "Origins." In Anthropologies of Science and Technology in Japan, created by Yoko Taguchi, Miki Namba, Grant Jun Otsuki, Gergely Mohacsi, Shuhei Kimura, and Miho Ishii. In STS Across Borders Gallery Exhibit, curated by Aalok Khandekar and Kim Fortun. Annual Meeting of the Society for Social Studies of Science. Sydney, Australia, Aug 30-31. http://www.stsinfrastructures.org. Image Credit: Ka23 13

