

Literature Tipps from SI Experts

Anna Butzin

Project coordinator at Institute of Work and Technology, Gelsenkirchen (Germany) and member of SI-Drive Project



Which book or article about Social Innovation should everybody read? Why? (Please don't cite own publications or publications from your institution).

I much appreciate Arnoud Lagendijk's considerations of his inaugural speech when he became professor of economic geography at Radboud University Nijmegen. The speech was entitled »From 'spaces of hope' to 'networks of hope': How globalization gives rise to grassroots economies and new foundations of local wealth creation«. It can be found by following this link: <http://www.ru.nl/scapes/@672946/pagina/#publications>

Anna Davis

Senior Research Associate, The Young Foundation, London (GB) and member of SI-Drive Project



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The article I would recommend is not particularly new, but makes some important points. It is Stephen Osborne and Louise Brown's article for *Public Administration* from 2011, 'Innovation, public policy and public services delivery in the UK: the word that would be king?'. This speaks specifically to the UK policy adoption of the terminology of innovation but I think its relevance is much wider – it reminds us that not all positive change is always innovative in nature and that not all innovative change is always beneficial. These are in some ways obvious points, but they can sometimes get lost in social innovation discourse.

Steven Dhondt

Senior research scientist at TNO and visiting professor at the University of Leuven and member of SI-Drive Project



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If you want to understand how the policy context has changed, and how policy can help promote social innovation, then the following book is a must-read:

Bourgon, Jocelyne (2011). [*A New Synthesis of Public Administration: Serving in the 21st Century*](#). Canada: McGill-Queen's University Press. p. 31. [ISBN 978-1553393139](#).

Dmitri Domanski

Researcher and lecturer at Sozialforschungsstelle Dortmund, central scientific unit of TU Dortmund and member of SI-Drive Project



Which book or article about Social Innovation should everybody read? Why?

I would like to recommend the article "When scaling out is not enough: Strategies for system change" by Frances Westley and Nino Antadze (2013). It's very interesting because of the idea that social entrepreneurs need to change the system that created the problem if they want to reach their goal. This scaling-up approach goes beyond the common idea of dissemination. It shows the importance of thinking social innovation differently.

Josef Hochgerner

Scientific Director; Zentrum für soziale Innovation (ZSI) Wien (A) and member of SI-Drive Project



Which book or article about Social Innovation should everybody read? Why?

Christopher Freeman, 1995: The 'National System of Innovation' in historical perspective. Cambridge Journal of Economics. Vol. 19, pp. 5-24. Available (free download)

at http://www.globelicsacademy.org/2011_pdf/Freeman%20NSI%20historial%20perspective.pdf

Exactly this should everybody read for preparing the discussion about infrastructures and national systems of SI.

Jürgen Howaldt

Director of Sozialforschungsstelle Dortmund, Central Scientific Unit of Technical University Dortmund and coordinator of SI-Drive Project

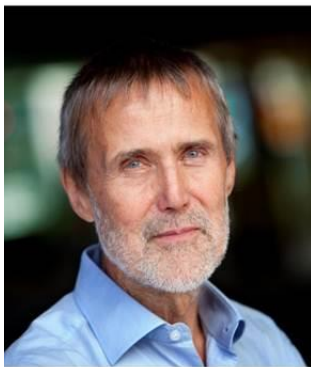


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I really like the french sociologist Gabriel Tarde (1843-1904) and his book 'The laws of imitation'. Recourse to Tarde's social theory, which is actually sociology *of innovation*, allows us to widen our perspective - which was narrowed to economic and technological innovations as described by Schumpeter and after him by the sociology of technology - to include the wide variety of social innovations.

Jeremy Millard

Visiting Research Fellow at Brunel University, London (UK) and member of SI-Drive Project



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It is extremely difficult to select just item one (just like on "Desert Island Discs", which the Brits will know about☺), but if really pushed I would plump for:

Prahalad, C.K.; Hart, Stuart L. (2002). "The Fortune at the Bottom of the Pyramid", Booz Allen Hamilton Inc.

Maybe not considered mainstream social innovation, but for me its approach and cases exhibit both high social impact on the poor of this world whilst also equipping them with new capacities to become entrepreneurial and earn decent livings. The book discusses new business models targeted at providing goods and services to the poorest people in the world, so shows how entrepreneurship need not be anathema to social good. According to Bill Gates, it "offers an intriguing blueprint for how to fight poverty with profitability."

Peter Oeij

Senior Research Scientist and Consultant, TNO Innovation for Life, Leiden (The Netherlands) and member of SI-Drive Project



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To 'deviate from the norm' (which according to innovative avant-garde musician Frank Zappa is the cornerstone for renewal) I would like to suggest not a read on social innovation, but on innovation from the world of business and management. Andy Van de Ven et al's 'Innovation Journey' (1999) addresses most logical and irrational aspects of innovation. But even a less expected work to recommend would be 'Managing the unexpected' (2007) from Karl Weick and Kathleen Sutcliffe, as it stresses the need for a great sense of urgency for (social) change, otherwise innovation will not come about, to the detriment of the resilience of our societies.

Julie Simon

Acting Head of Research, The Young Foundation, London (UK) and member of SI-Drive Project



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I would suggest two things although neither is about social innovation directly. The first is Carlota Perez's work on technological revolutions and techno-economic paradigms (Perez, 2009, 'Technological revolutions and techno-economic paradigms', Cambridge Journal of Economics, Vol. 34, No.1, pp. 185-202). She writes about

the changing nature of innovation – and this has huge implications for the changing nature and new forms of social innovation. The second is the inspirational story of a social innovator – Augusto Boal (see Theatre of the Oppressed and Legislative Theatre). He used theatre as a way of engaging and empowering some of the most marginalized and vulnerable people in Rio de Janeiro. The most interesting thing for me is that he was elected as a City Councilor and used his method as a way of co-creating legislative proposals with the people of Rio de Janeiro.

Matthias Weber

Head of Unit Research, Technology and Innovation Policy, Innovation Systems Department, AIT Austrian Institute of Technology, Vienna (Austria) and member of SI-Drive Project



Which book or article about Social Innovation should everybody read? Why?

Robin Murray, Julie Caulier, Geoff Mulgan (2010): The Open Book of Social Innovation, NESTA and Young Foundation

This report represents an excellent mixture of theoretical and practical insights into social innovation, and is a highly recommended reading for everybody who wants to get a good grasp of the different facets of this phenomenon. By combining a good overview of theoretical perspectives with many examples of social innovations, the reader is equipped with a good understanding why social innovation makes a difference, how it happens and how it can be supported at different stages of development.

Vishanth Weerakkody

Professor of Digital Governance at Brunel University, Business School, London, and member of SI-Drive Project



Which book or article about Social Innovation should everybody read? Why?

Goldsmith, S. (2010). *The Power of Social Innovation: How Civic Entrepreneurs Ignite Community Networks for Good*. Jossey-Bass.

This book explains the influence that entrepreneurship, public sector, private sector, civil society and the modern ICT landscape have on facilitating social innovation. In my view, these are all essential elements for social innovation to succeed in any society.