

‘Social Precognition’, Product Innovation and Technology Policy

Invited Session

Robert Dingwall¹

Dingwall Enterprises/Nottingham Trent University

Abstract: When scientists develop a new technology, they tend to assume that nothing like it has previously existed and are surprised to encounter public reactions that reflect previous explorations of that technology by creative artists. However, it may also be possible to argue that the technology itself could not have been conceived without the imaginative efforts of creative artists: NASA could only build rockets because Jules Verne had already written about them and defined a challenge to science. This presentation explores some of the possible implications for technological innovation and UK science policy.

Keywords. Science Policy, Social Science, Technology Innovation

Brief Biography: Professor Robert Dingwall is an independent consultant on science and society and part-time professor of social science at Nottingham Trent University. He was previously founding Director of the Institute for Science and Society at the University of Nottingham

¹ Corresponding Author: Robert Dingwall Email: robert.dingwall@ntlworld.com