

Ethics and Innovation

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We are living in a period of unprecedented changes in the history of human society. Technological innovation and the introduction of related technologies into our lives are progressing at a pace unimaginable just a few decades ago. The transition times from research activity to innovation have been almost reduced to zero, and now these two entirely different processes have merged into a single temporal and conceptual entity.

The possibilities offered by this continuous innovation process are enormous from an entrepreneurial, economic, and social perspective. However, it is also necessary to recognize how they can sometimes pose risks associated with the ability to alter the social and natural ecosystems of the Earth.

Innovation must be simultaneously technological, economic, and social. These aspects are in constant, mutual synergy. In fact, I believe that effective innovation can only be spoken of when there is an improvement in the quality of people's lives, in the short or medium term. The concept of effective innovation cannot, therefore, ignore ethical behavior. Social innovation occurs when social needs are met as a collective result of a community in a specific territory. The process requires agreements, collaboration, sharing, dialogue, and innovative behavior from all actors.

It is therefore necessary to combine technological innovation with a philosophical approach guided by ethics. This means developing the ability to accurately assess the negative impacts of each new technology, the side effects of its adoption, and working to limit or eliminate them altogether.

In the present talk a general overview and some highlights will be pointed out in order to promote a specific discussion.