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SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIETY

New Directions

Andrew Webster

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Foreword

This book charts recent developments in the sociology of science as well as changes in the character of science and technology as social institutions. The idea for the book grew out of my belief that a text which linked the insights of sociology with the concerns of science policy was needed and might be especially useful for students on both natural and social science courses pursuing the broad dynamics of the relationship between science and society.

The 'New Directions' mapped out here could not have been so without some 'old' academic friends who have contributed over a number of years to my own understanding of the field. Many of the issues raised in the text have been discussed more or less directly with Henry Etzkowitz, Mike Gibbons, Paul Hoch, Mike Mulkay, Paul Quintas, Nick Read, Joyce Tait, and colleagues at the Science Policy Support Group, Peter Healey and John Ziman.

But I especially want to thank Wendy Faulkner, Steve Yearley and Julian Constable for reading and commenting on parts of the manuscript and helping me to refine and elaborate on the argument. None of these is responsible, of course, for any 'mistaken' directions that the text takes. I should also like to thank Dilys Jones, commissioning editor, and Keith Povey, editorial services, for their help in producing the text with both speed and efficiency.

The very valuable support of colleagues has been matched, however, by that of my wife, Helen, whose patience and good humour made the writing of this book not only a possibility but a reality that was much more enjoyable than should be allowed.

ANDREW WEBSTER

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List of Abbreviations

ABRC	Advisory Board for the Research Councils
ACOST	Advisory Committee on Science and Technology
ALF	Animal Liberation Front
AT	Alternative Technology
BRIDGE	Biotechnology Research for Innovation
BTG	British Technology Group
CAITS	Centre for Alternative Industrial and Technological Systems
CEST	Centre for the Exploitation of Science and Technology
CIMAH	Control of Industrial Major Hazards
DA	Discourse Analysis
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic Acid
EDA	Ethnography and Discourse Analysis
GASP	Generic Analytical Sample Preparation
IRC	Interdisciplinary Research Centre
ITDG	Intermediate Technology Development Group
MAST	Marine Science and Technology
MITI	Ministry of International Trade and Industry (Japan)
MNC	Multinational Corporation
N/C	Numerical Control
SAST	Strategic Analysis in Science and Technology
SCOT	Social Construction of Technology
TEA	Transversely Excited Atmospheric (Laser)