



CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK OF THE CONTRIBUTION OF INTERMEDIATE TRANSITION ORGANIZATIONS TO TRANSFORMATIVE INNOVATION

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ABSTRACT

Objective: To propose a conceptual framework for analyzing transition intermediaries in sociotechnical niches through complementarities between levels of activity, types of organizations, and functions of intermediaries.

Theoretical Framework: To develop the conceptual framework proposal, we started from the framework proposed by Kivimaa *et al.* (2019), which identified five levels of activity of transition intermediaries. The most recent case studies on the activities performed by each type of intermediary were added. Finally, we assessed whether the activities performed by each type of intermediary fulfill the functions proposed by Hekkert, M. P., & Negro, S. O. (2009) for the evolution of a sociotechnical niche, complemented by Garcez; Dias (2023).

Method: The chosen method was a theoretical essay, which allowed for the synthesis, comparison and critique of concepts, models and arguments existing in the literature on the activities, functions and levels of action of transition intermediaries (Barros, 2011; Larrosa, 2004). This decision is justified by the need for theoretically grounded reflection that helps fill a gap identified in the theory on the functions performed by each type of transition intermediary.

Results and Discussion: The final result was the proposal of a conceptual framework for analyzing transition intermediaries in terms of the types of organizations, their levels of action and functions performed. The conceptual framework includes six types of intermediary organizations: technology dissemination intermediaries, research funding organizations, NGOs and universities, specific administrative organizations (Network Administrative Organization - NAO), producer networks with a lead organization, and specifies which of them act as regime intermediaries, niche intermediaries, process intermediaries and user intermediaries. It also specifies how each of them contributes to the functions of knowledge dissemination, entrepreneurial experimentation, research orientation, knowledge development, resource mobilization, creating legitimacy, market formation Hekkert, M. P., & Negro, S. O. (2009), plus three other functions added: coordination of efforts, sociocultural changes, and analysis of the system as a whole.

Research Implications: The practical and theoretical implications of this research are discussed, providing insights on how the results can be applied or influence practices in the field of Transformative Innovation, more specifically on the role of intermediary organizations in the processes of transition of innovations focused on social and environmental objectives.

Originality/Value: This study contributes to the literature by theoretically specifying which types of intermediary organizations act in processes of transition of innovations focused on social and environmental objectives (Transformative Innovation), what their levels of action are, and how their activities contribute to the functions that contribute to the evolution of the sociotechnical niche.

Keywords: Sustainability, Technological Innovation Systems (TIS), Sociotechnical Niches, Transformative Change.

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