



Why do socio-technical networks thrive on translation?

Changing perspective — After examining the diffusion of innovations, another question arises. How do actors with different interests, skills and languages manage to cooperate sustainably around the same project?

Circulation depends on mediators—Bruno Latour shows that facts, data, and representations never circulate alone. They progress through chains of mediators who translate, reformulate, and make realities portable.

Networks are built — For Michel Callon, networks do not pre-exist the actors who compose them. They emerge gradually through processes of problematization, engagement, recruitment, and mobilization.

Ongoing maintenance — John Law reminds us that no network is ever permanently stable. Alignments must be maintained, adjusted, and sometimes repaired to preserve the coherence of the collective.

Translation is what builds networks