

TEC 154 2014S, Class 12: Food (Discussion)

Overview

- Preliminaries.
 - Admin.
 - Questions.
- "Big picture" issues: Lenses, Genres, Individual technologies.
- Applying lenses.
- More open-ended questions.

Preliminaries

Admin

- Note takers (send me five main points): SA
 - We had confusion on Wednesday, so we had three note takers. Sorry.
- Yesterday, I drove to Chicago and back for a six-hour wake, so I'm even more behind than normal. I will do my best to catch up this weekend.
- Readings for Monday
 - Ch 8: Feminist Perspectives on Technology
 - Ch 9: Futuring Methods
- Readings for Wednesday
 - Ch 10: The Role of Technology in Society
 - Ch 11: Technology, the Opiate of the Individual
- Readings for Friday
 - Ch 12: Why the Future Doesn't Need Us
 - Ch 13: A Reponse to Bill Joy and the Doom and Gloom Technofuturists
- Extra credit
 - Swimming Friday and Saturday. (DS and DP start times tbd.)
 - DP 200 Yard IM 11:17 a.m.
 - CS Table Friday at noon: Law, Order, and Computers
 - Posse plus retreat (if you are not in Posse)
 - Executive debate JRC 101 Sunday
 - Upcoming Town Hall meetings on Diversity
 - Others?
- Good things to do
 - Poet tonight (we think, if he/she/zhi makes it through the snow)

Notes from SA

1. Some of the metrics for risk - Dread or lack thereof, Knowledge, Analyze, Severity
2. Some of the broad categories of technology that Lyons introduced were:
 - a. Nanotechnology
 - b. Food packaging in order to achieve â General and intelligent packaging â flexibility, etc. Biodegradable composites. Antimicrobial or oxygen scavenging properties (kills small things like bacteria, and takes away oxygen so that bacteria doesnât grow)
 - c. Food enhancement â nutrition, appearance, texture. Food safety or preservation, storage.
 1. Petroski would say that as with all technologies, food technologies also have certain risk factors. he might be more careful because of the liability with consumers and food.
 2. Pool (How society shapes technology) would want us to think about fads in food, nutrition, and health as we assess new technologies about food.
 3. When/how do we regulate a technology? What are the ways that people engineer around regulations? We need to see if a certain technology is an attempt to engineer around a regulation and, if so, what the implications are for doing so.

Notes from TD

Food additives can be good and bad!

The agriculture/food product industry uses industrially-sourced radiation to preserve the shelf life of certain food stuffs.

A host of regulatory issues arise around nano-particles. For example, the FDA regulates chemical substances defined by their composition, and nano-particles do have the same composition as their larger counterparts. Does that mean that substances approved for macro use also have implicit permission for use on the nano scale? Companies argue so, but they also use nano-particles for their unique effects. How can regulation legally confront this?

We don't definitively know how nano-particles behave during digestive uptake and processing.

Consumer opinions are very important for the long-term success of products. "Will we be wooed by nanoparticles or repulsed by them?" We don't know if they will end up going the way of other "high-tech" food stuffs.

"Big picture" issues: Lenses, Genres, Individual technologies

Take five minutes to think about the following questions.

What new questions (or not so new questions) do Lyons and the authors ask us to use when we encounter a new technology?

- What are the risks of that technology?
 - For food: What happens when you consume it?
 - For all technologies: To the people who manufacture it.
 - E.g. blue hands in nanosilver
 - E.g. inhalation and skin for nanoparticles
 - Metrics for risk
 - Dread or lack thereof
 - Knowledge
 - Analyze
 - Severity
- When/how do we regulate a technology?
 - What evidence do we rely on?
 - What technologies do we use to build evidence?
- What are the ways that people engineer around regulations?
 - Alternately: Is this technology an attempt to engineer around a regulation and, if so, what are the implications?
- We also build technologies to understand/assess technologies.
 - How do we analyze new technologies?
 - What technologies do we need to analyze technologies?

What are the broad categories of technology that Lyons introduced?

- Nanotechnology
 - Food packaging in order to achieve -
 - General packaging goals - flexibility, etc.
 - Intelligent food packaging - Is this food still good?
 - Biodegradable
 - Antimicrobial or oxygen scavenging properties
 - Kill small things (e.g., bacteria)
 - Takes away oxygen - helps kill microbes/bacteria
 - Helps preserve in other ways, too
- Food safety, preservation, storage
 - Food irradiation
 - Heat treatment

- Food enhancement - Nutrition, Appearance, Texture
- Regulation (is regulation a technology?)

What are other issues Lyons considered?

- Consumer safety

What are some particular technologies within each category that Lyons introduced?

Applying lenses: Small Group

Technologies to think about:

- Food irradiation
- Nanopackaging

Group A:

- What technologies that Lyons discussed would Berry consider positive? (For this question, you can go beyond the particular ones above.)
 - Back to his nine principles ... danger (particularly to the people who work with the radiation or ...), size, ...
 - Maybe pasteurization
- What would Weinberg (Can Technology Shape Social Engineering) want you to consider as you assess these technologies?
- Move on to Group B questions.

Group B:

- What would Whittaker want you to consider as you assess these technologies?
 - Do people think about the technology? Some do, but often hidden.
 - Is there still an niche for raw milk?
 - Why do powdered eggs exist?
- What would Florman (Technology and the Tragic View) want you to consider as you assess these technologies?
- Move on to Group C questions.

Group C:

- What would Petroski say about these technologies?
 - Petroski is all about risks
 - But he might be more cautious with relationship to food "You have to trust your food." Liability with consumers and food.
- What would Pool (How Society Shapes Technology) want you to consider as you assess these technologies?
 - Fads

- Move on to Group A questions.

Applying lenses: Big Group

Why differences?

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