

# Preface

Innovation is a complex issue. It involves much more than a new idea to be realized, sometimes even the reconfiguration of reality. Successful innovations involve ‘creative destruction’ of existing patterns and the formation of new configurations that work. Such reconfigurations comprise cognitive, institutional, technical and behavioral elements. They also involve the collective action of concerned actors, organizations and networks in order to be successful.

The focus of this book is on the conditions and implications of sustainable innovation in the electricity system. Our interest is to better understand the conditions and opportunities for innovation that could bring about a more sustainable situation than the current fossil and nuclear fuel-based electricity system in Germany. We look at various innovation processes that are ongoing and continuously shape the system of the future. Our intention is to analyze and assess these processes with a view to identifying possibilities to shape innovation in the electricity system for sustainable development. To this end, we assess the potential of selected technological, societal, and institutional innovations, among others.

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