

## **AMERICAN MYTH & MEMORY: DAVID LEVINTHAL PHOTOGRAPHS**

**JUNE 7, 2019 — OCTOBER 14, 2019**

**Smithsonian American Art Museum (8th and F Streets, NW)**

Populated with toy cowboys and cavalry, Barbie dolls and baseball players, David Levinthal's photographs reference iconic images and events that shaped postwar American society. Despite their playful veneer, Levinthal's images provide a lens through which to examine the myths and stereotypes lurking within our most beloved pastimes and enduring heroes. In doing so, Levinthal encourages us to consider the stories we tell about ourselves—what it means to be strong, beautiful, masculine, feminine, and ultimately, American.

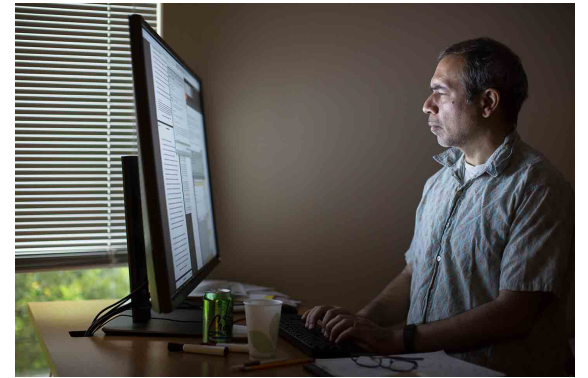
[Read more](#)

## **David Levinthal**





No Firm is an Island



# Ecology of Technical Progress



# No Firm is an Island

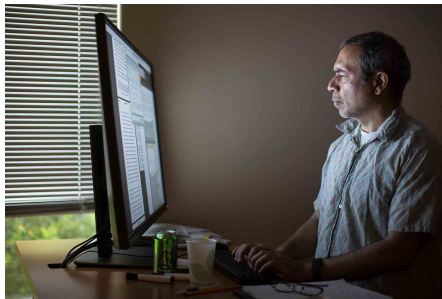
- Firms are significant, but rather modest bodies of mass in a “sea” of technological progress



Knowledge as public good



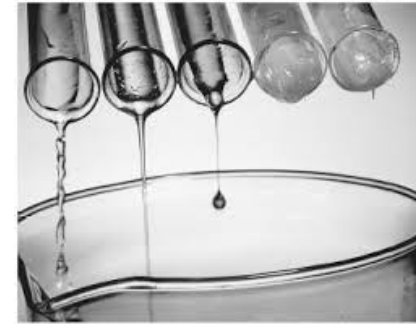
Technology as a residual in a production function



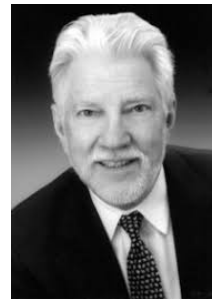
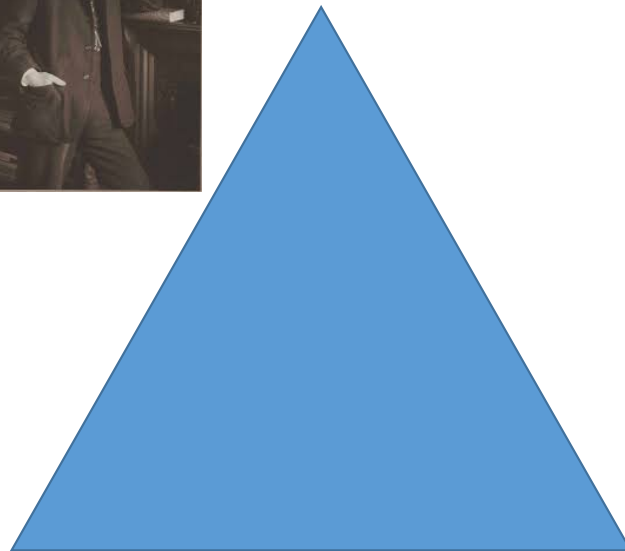
“Students” of Technological Change



# Viscosity of Knowledge



Geography



Networks

Nature of knowledge and the  
knowledge of recipients

# Absorptive Capacity Perspective

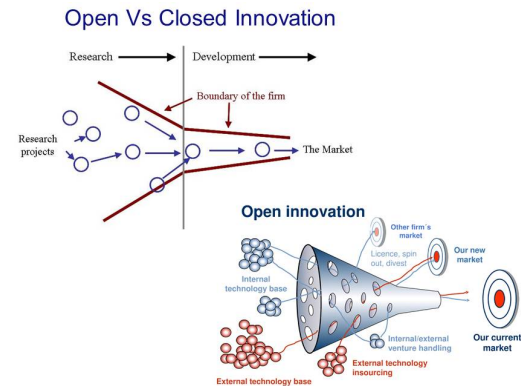
Cohen & Levinthal, 1989 and 1990

- Absorptive Capacity
  - Ability to absorb, assimilate, and exploit external sources of knowledge a function of the firm's (actor's) own knowledge stock
- Internal knowledge as a “ticket of admission” to knowledge communities
  - What is the relevant knowledge source:
    - Basic > Applied Research
    - Universities > Gov't Labs > Mtl Suppliers > Equip Suppliers



# Complementarity between Own Knowledge and External Sources

- Joint Ventures & Licensing not a *substitute* for internal efforts but are *complements* to them
- Biotech firms with larger patent stocks tend to (Arora and Gambardella, 1990):
  - More linkages with University labs
  - More minority investments in new biotech firms
  - More linkages with other pharma firms
  - Acquisitions of new biotech firms



- Semi-permeable boundaries
  - Own firm knowledge as complement rather than substitute
  - Nature of knowledge
    - Tacit versus codified
    - Categories and cognition
      - Need to represent problems (and solutions) in a way that have meaning for potential problem solvers (or users)



