

STRUCTURE, AGENCY AND BIOTECHNOLOGY

The Case of the Rothamsted
GM Wheat Trials

Aristeidis Panagiotou



Structure, Agency and Biotechnology

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GM debate in the wider social, political, economic and cultural context

“This work is both a sophisticated theoretical synthesis and a finely worked case illuminating a topic of profound importance: genetic modification. Panagiotou’s labors bring much-needed clarity to this complex and contested world, moving us well beyond the simple binaries of truth and politics, science and publics. It is recommended to those with an interest in the environment, policy and governance, risk, science and technology, and social theory.” —Steve Matthewman, Associate Professor, Head of Sociology, University of Auckland, New Zealand

“This is a fascinating account of the intricacies of one of the most important GMO episodes in the UK. Yet, the greatest achievement of this book lies in its combining a detailed case-study, arguably the hallmark of STS scholarship, with the willingness to engage with contemporary macrosociological theory.” —Eve Seguin, Professor, Department of Political Science & Programme of Postgraduate Studies in Science, Technology and Society, Université du Québec à Montréal, Canada

“This is a masterful piece of holistic sociological theory framing the study of a GM controversy. Revisiting structuration theory, Panagiotou offers a very rich discussion of the particularities anchored across different locations. His book presents a critical understanding of science and technology using sociological concepts and methodological bracketing.” —Dominique Vinck, Full Professor, STS Lab, University of Lausanne, Switzerland

“Structure, Agency, Biotechnology” argues for the significance of sociological theory and highlights the insights that it can offer into the study of agricultural biotechnology.

About the Author(s) / Editor(s)

Aristeidis Panagiotou is a researcher at the Hellenic Federation of Enterprises (SEV), Greece.

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