**Grassroots innovation movements**

**Adrian Smith**

Whilst policy elites increasingly invoke innovation for sustainability, overlooked is the fact that networks of community groups, activists and researchers have been innovating grassroots solutions for decades. Some of the dilemmas and dynamics of these grassroots innovation movements will be introduced, and issues arising with attention from institutions will be discussed. The proliferation of makerspaces globally, and their appropriation of high-technology design and fabrication for (problematic) grassroots activity will be used as illustration.

*Core readings:*

Smith, A., & Stirling, A. (2016). *Grassroots Innovation & Innovation Democracy*. Brighton: STEPS Centre

Fressoli, M., Arond, E., Abrol, D., Smith, A., Ely, A., & Dias, R. (2014). When grassroots innovation movements encounter mainstream institutions: implications for models of inclusive innovation. *Innovation and Development*, *4*(2), 277–292