Development of Innovation Studies in China

Innovation studies (IS) has been an interdisciplinary research field over decades of development, based on economics, business and management, sociology, policy, organization studies and other related subjects. This paper examines the origin and evolution of the field of IS, with systematically review the key academic achievements and contributors in IS community. This paper also proposes a comprehensive and integrated research review for IS in China. In fact, despite its irreplaceable and essential role in economy, innovation also enjoys an important position in theoretical research in China. Based on unique innovation management practices in Chinese enterprises, Chinese scholars have proposed several unique innovation theories, such as "3-I pattern" (imitation, improvement, and innovation), indigenous innovation, Total Innovation Management, Holistic Innovation and Meaningful Innovation etc. As during the transition from major innovative nation to super innovative nation, China is now facing the challenge of how to stimulate more major innovation patterns which would "change the world" in the era of the knowledge economy; thus, it is in need of going through the whole innovation journey in China and proposing future perspectives for a Chinese innovation paradigm.