



**Introducing this journal**

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*Debating Innovation?* This is the name of the journal of the Observatory for Responsible Innovation, also of the Observatory's website and blog ([debatinginnovation.org](http://debatinginnovation.org)). But the idea of "debating innovation" is also, most importantly, a crucial vehicle for the development of a culture of responsibility in innovation. The Observatory for Responsible Innovation, an independent think tank established at Mines ParisTech (the Ecole des Mines de Paris), aims at organizing debate on controversial issues raised by innovation in a variety of areas. To innovate is, in a sense, to come up with solutions to previous problems. But to innovate is also to generate new realities that can be themselves problematic. Taking responsibility in the face of these realities means accounting for externalities, expressing collective concerns and improving understanding through discussion with involved actors. Favoring pieces that take the form of a discussion or a conversation, *Debating Innovation* contributes to that direction.

The Observatory for Responsible Innovation starts in 2011 with a focus on finance, that is, with an exploration of the pace and consequences of financial innovation, and with a discussion on responsibility and irresponsibility in that area. Other fields will be tackled in the years to come (energy, materials and information technologies among others) and will find their place in the pages of *Debating Innovation*.