

# Technological Innovation and Environmental Social Movements: A Critical Approach

ATHANASIOS HADJIMANOLIS

## **Abstract**

*The present paper focuses on environmental social movements and their ambivalent relationship with technology (including information and communication technology - ICT) and innovation. It examines the applicability of the theory of political opportunity structure (POS) and the ecological modernization theory (EMT) in semi-peripheral countries through the case study of Cyprus. POS theory provides the basis for the investigation of the emergence and development of the environmental movement in Cyprus. The EMT approach, despite its deficiencies, which have attracted considerable criticism, provides a useful framework for the examination of the role of the environmental movement in environmental technology development and diffusion and in environmental policy making. The paper further considers the place of ICT within the above approaches and its role in facilitating the democratic process of public participation in environmental decision making. Finally it evaluates the role of ICT in the internal organization and action repertoires of environmental movement organizations.*