

Technological change, international trade and growth

Citation for published version (APA):

Nomaler, Z. O. (2006). *Technological change, international trade and growth*. [Doctoral Thesis, Maastricht University]. Datawyse / Universitaire Pers Maastricht. <https://doi.org/10.26481/dis.20060126zn>

Document status and date:

Published: 01/01/2006

DOI:

[10.26481/dis.20060126zn](https://doi.org/10.26481/dis.20060126zn)

Document Version:

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Please check the document version of this publication:

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STELLINGEN

behorende bij het proefschrift van Önder Nomaler

TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE, INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND GROWTH -An Evolutionary Multi-Agents-Based Modeling Approach-

1. The time paths described by the disequilibrium processes of stochastic evolutionary models are not necessarily too divergent from the smooth time paths of the notional equilibrium processes of reduced formulations. Yet, no matter how close these alternative trajectories may be, the distance between them has a good potential to offer valuable insights, especially on often-debated issues such as technological unemployment and long waves in growth.
(Chapter 6, this thesis)
2. In a formulation with fixed technological coefficients, comparative advantages can be multiplicatively decomposed into labor cost, capital cost and product quality dimensions and such decomposition suggests that the element that is most likely responsible for the shortcomings of the 'factor proportions' based model of trade is the continuous production function.
(Chapter 6, this thesis)
3. One of the greatest potentials of allowing actual heterogeneity of firms in a model is the according possibility to consider the two-way causality between industrial organization and technological change simultaneously.
(Chapter 7, this thesis)
4. The extent of the R&D expenditures of an economy is more a matter of heterogeneity, self-organization and sustainability -thus industrial organization and dynamics- than a mere reflection of the societies' intertemporal preferences and rationality.
(Chapter 7, this thesis)
5. The specialization of 'human capital poor' countries in sectors characterized by low technological opportunities may imply dynamic losses in productivity growth at the world scale.
(Chapter 7, this thesis)
6. Man has such a predilection for systems and abstract deduction that he is ready to distort the truth intentionally, he is ready to deny the evidence of his senses in order to justify his logic.
Dostoyevsky, Notes from Underground
7. Studying economics can teach one that in addition to the standard dictionary interpretations, the word "paradox" can also express a state of surprise and frustration felt at times when one observes that something in which one is desperately willing to believe on the basis of one's abstract deductions, turns out to be falsified by evidence.
8. Underlying the explicit differences between the formulations of evolutionary and mainstream models of growth, one can identify an implicit yet key difference with regard to the definitions of endogeneity and sustainability of technological change and economic growth.

9. The pervasive belief that a proper (warm) lunch will decrease one's afternoon productivity at work, which still seems to affect the contemporary Dutch cultural paradigm, is an excellent example for the literature on the possibility of locking-in to sub-optimal alternatives due to strong network externalities.
10. Contrary to the contemporary majority opinion, a minority of people still seems to believe that with long and compounded sentences, one can express more than one can do with a respectively decomposed sequence of the constituent (simpler) sentences.
11. Solvitur ambulando (the problem is solved by walking around).

Latin Proverb