

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910346777003321
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Titolo	Fraktale Doppel-Boom-Zyklen und Querschnittstechnologien: Theorie, Empirie und Politikimplikationen am Beispiel der Nanotechnologie
Pubbl/distr/stampa	KIT Scientific Publishing, 2016
ISBN	1000049667
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (XIX, 229 p. p.)
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Sommario/riassunto	In a majority of knowledge-intensive technologies, empirical studies show characteristic double boom patterns of research activities. After an initial increase of efforts, research activities drop, only to rise again after a certain period. As a reason for this interim weakening the literature presumes a temporary disillusionment among economic actors. The present work questions this assumption. Instead, it is argued that a general purpose technology is replacing its techno-economic predecessor.