

**The Ontology or Politics of Knowledge? Sociological Imagination
and Social Studies of Science**

ABSTRACT. This paper is an attempt to synthesize the two theoretical traditions: critical sociology (CW Mills) and the non-classical sociology of knowledge (B. Latour). The first tradition is defined as a policy of knowledge due to being axiologically entangled

in practice. The second tradition, which includes the social studies of science and actor-network theory, is defined as the ontology of knowledge. This tradition developed as a result of the so-called ontological turn in the social sciences. This turn is represented by studies which are undertaken as part of STS and ANT.

The synthesis which is presented here amounts to a stage in the development of the original concept of 'ontological imagination'. This concept connects the ontological dimension of research done as part of the STS and ANT with the axiological sensibility of critical sociology. The intention behind this concept and the synthesis which is presented here is to help promote the development of democratic control over science and technology.

KEY WORDS: critical sociology, Bruno Latour, Charles W. Mills, sociology of knowledge, ontological turn, social studies of science, actor – network theory, ontological imagination

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