

**The Divided Collective World in the Face of Technological Innovation:
The Case of USOS**

ABSTRACT. In the text I argue that what Bruno Latour referred to as the Modern Constitution (in *We Have Never Been Modern*) and the dynamics of innovation in the collective world should be viewed as a single mechanism having two different levels. The dynamics of innovation refers to the real trajectory of changes in the collective world, while the Modern Constitution is an imaginary “covering”, which simultaneously obscures and reinterprets the processes of change that are really taking place in the world. The very reinterpretation according to which there exist two ontologically pure attractors, i.e. society and nature, stimulates the speed of changes and makes them uncontrollable. This argument is illustrated by examples taken from the USOS soft-

ware which has been introduced at some of the Polish universities. These are: the no response rule, invisible work, and an institutional lack of self-learning.

KEY WORDS: Modern Constitution, collective, collective change, divided structure of modernity, Actor-Network Theory (ANT), USOS

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