Electrification in the Pacific Northwest and Problem of Embeddedness


PDF MPRA_paper_59874.pdf
Download (1MB) | Preview

Abstract

The surplus approach of classical political economy is applied to the problem of qualitative change in the social provisioning as concerns the Pacific Northwest. Two features of the surplus approach, 1) emphasis on structural interdependence and 2) the Sraffian notion of ‘viability’, allow for the economic history of the Pacific Northwest to be recast as a problem of embeddness. It is argued that two distinct provisioning processes were embedded in two societies, and viability of each is mutually inconsistent with the other. That is, capitalist use of the Columbia River watershed undermined the viability of the non-capitalist provisioning process that precedes it, in which indigenous groups were central. Taking the social relation as the unit of analysis qualitative change is examined with reference to the electrification of the region, and the subsequent rendering of the watershed as an ‘organic machine.’

Item Type: MPRA Paper

Original Title: Electrification in the Pacific Northwest and Problem of Embeddedness

Language: English

Keywords: surplus approach, Sraffa, Pacific Northwest, embeddedness

Subjects: B - History of Economic Thought, Methodology, and Heterodox Approaches > B5 - Current Heterodox Approaches
L - Industrial Organization > L9 - Industry Studies: Transportation and Utilities > L94 - Electric Utilities
N - Economic History > N9 - Regional and Urban History
P - Economic Systems > P0 - General

Item ID: 59874

Depositing User: Mitchell Green

Date Deposited: 12. Nov 2014 21:14


References:

Electricity: A Popular Electrical Journal ... 1896. Electricity newspaper Company.
Grodinsky, Julius. 1962. Transcontinental Railway Strategy, 1869-1893; a Study of Businessmen. Philadelphia: University of
Northwestern University. I investigate how social embeddedness affects an organization’s acquisition and cost of financial capital in middle-market banking—a lucrative but understudied financial sector. Using existing theory and original fieldwork, I develop a framework to explain how embeddedness can influence which firms get capital and at what cost. Before proceeding, it is worth noting the unique qualitative and quantitative materials used in this analysis. Because the effect of embeddedness in financial markets is contested and remains “in need of greater theoretical specification” (Smelser and Swedberg 1994:18), I strengthen my analysis using a triangulation of theory, fieldwork, and statistical analysis (King, Keohane, and Verba 1994).