

Preface

Since this project started a few years ago, high-tech policy has been elevated to a very prominent position in the economic policy agenda of many countries. However, the conceptual foundations for designing institutional and legal frameworks conducive to high-tech industries and for shaping specific measures that support advanced technologies have changed considerably during the past decades. Most countries now embrace a differentiated, non-linear approach to high-tech policy. Decision-makers have gradually recognised the complexity of coordinating the many policy components required to succeed in the dynamic and often risky endeavor of developing and adopting advanced technologies. We hope that the articles in this volume will further uplift the academic and practical discussions on the prospects, conditions, and possible limitations of high-tech policy.

Early versions of most of the chapters in this volume were presented at a conference organised by the Chair for Empirical Theory of the State at the University of Konstanz, Germany. Meersburg's baroque castle, overlooking Lake Constance, offered an inspiring backdrop for spirited debate. The conference was arranged under the auspices of the German Political Science Association's working group on "Politics and Technology." It took place prior to the economic crisis that engulfed the global economy in 2008, but its main concerns have only gained in importance and practical relevance. All authors generously contributed additional time and effort to revise and update their initial papers. Consequently, the chapters assembled in this volume are all up-to-date, in some cases reflecting developments into early 2011.

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