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SOUTHERN AND INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVES ON INNOVATIONS AND
TECHNOLOGIES

**CENTERING TRADITIONAL NORMATIVE CONSIDERATIONS IN THE WAKE
OF SOCIOTECHNICAL IMAGINARIES**

Jonathan Bill Doe (jbilldoe@yahoo.com)

At the moment of independence, Ghana, like other African countries, sought modernization through science and technology, articulating ambitious visions of industrialization and national development. These visions align with what Sheila Jasanoff describes as sociotechnical imaginaries: collectively held, these are state-oriented visions of desirable futures shaped by science and technology. The African traditional cultures were mobilized to undergo phases of modernization to align with these sociotechnical imaginaries. However, the traditional cultures experienced their own modernization through the unique adoption of 'incoming technologies.' In this paper, the traditional culture and the adoption of new technology are framed as traditional imaginaries. These traditional imaginaries are consistent with the ultimate goals of social life within the ethnic state. It will be argued that normative considerations guide the adoption and innovation of these traditional imaginaries. It will also be suggested

that such normative considerations should restrain efforts to transform traditional cultures into sociotechnical imaginaries. This discussion will be situated in African philosophy and Science and Technology Studies.

Palavras-chave: traditional imaginaries; normative considerations; sociotechnical imaginaries.