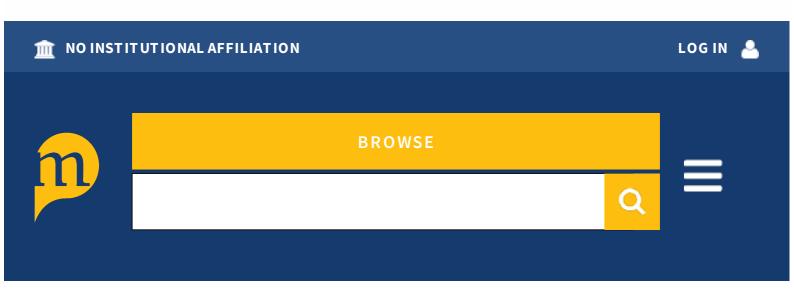
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Patent republic: representing inventions, constructing rights and authors.



# Patent Republic: Representing Inventions, Constructing Rights and Authors

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Social Research: An International Quarterly

Johns Hopkins University Press

Volume 73, Number 4, Winter 2006

pp. 1129-1172

**ARTICLE** 

View Citation

# <u>In lieu of</u> an abstract, here is a brief excerpt of the content:

Mario Biagioli Patent Republic: Representing Inventions, Constructing Rights and Authors COMPARED TO CASTING A VOTE, APPLYING FOR A PATENTIS SLOW, costly, and tedious. Still, both practices play out in different ways what it means to operate in a regime of political representation. In colonial America (as well as in early modem France, England, Spain, Italy, Germany, and Russia), patents were gifts the sovereigns could either grant or withhold from their subjects. Today, instead, we have the right to claim intellectual property in our inventions, and to have it recognized upon fulfilling certain requirements about the invention's subject matter, novelty, utility, nonobviousness, and adequate disclosure. The transition from patents as privileges to patents as intellectual property rights parallels the demise of political absolutism, the development of liberal economies, and the emergence of the modem political subject. In France, patents were declared one of the droits de l'homme less than two years after the revolution, and the US

Constitution was the first, in 1787, to include a clause about the authors and inventors "exclusive rights to
their respective writings and discoveries" (Loi Relative, 1791).1 Today's discussions about the pros and
cons of intellectual property are essentially political in nature, hinging on different views on the right
balance between w hat should be orremain public and what should be allowed to become private (and for
$how \ long)\ so\ as\ to\ provide\ social\ research\ Vol\ 73: No\ 4: Winter\ 200\ 6\ 1129\ incentives\ to\ innovation.\ My\ goal\ and\ the social\ research\ Vol\ 73: No\ 4: Winter\ 200\ 6\ 1129\ incentives\ to\ innovation.$
here is to look at the same balance at a more microscopic level—to move it from the level of broad politica
and cultural debates to the mundane details of patent applications. Far from depoliticizing the debate over
intellectual property by shifting it into the grey, technical realm of patent bure aucracy, I want to show that
one can sketch out an "archaeology of de mocracy" from a very m undane but key step in the patent
application: the disclosure of the invention. Required by modern patent law in the United States and
virtually every country in the world, this is the section of the application where the inventor describes (in
words and images) the invention in sufficient detail to enable a third party to repeat it. It is the specification
require ment that makes the patent system defensible in political terms. The most famous of US patent
officials, Thomas Jefferson, took patents to be private monopolies—monopolies he disliked and tried to lim
it (Bickford et al., 2004:1412). Even those who do not share Jefferson's views still acknowledge the tension
between the image of equality and free competition democracies putso much effort in polishing and the
temporary monopolies those same democracies are happy to grant to a great number of inventors.2
Debates over the relationship between patents and monopolies have a long history. Jacobean England
tried to distinguish unacceptable monopolies (many of which were banned in 1624) from acceptable ones
(exemplified by patents of invention). Because the latter were limited to new inventions only, they were
seen as taking nothing away from the public that it had before (Loosey, 1849:117).3Used throughout the
nine teenth century in Europe to defend the patent system from serious and occasionally fatal attacks, the
argument is still alive today—often with the additional spin that without patent protection many inventors
would be likely to with hold or take their discoveries to the grave with them (Dutton, 1984: 22-23; MacLeod,
1996:137-153; Schiff, 1971). The real enemies of public knowledge, we are told, are not patents but trade
secrets. W hile bearing conceptual family resemblances, defenses of the patent system display a distinct
shift in emphasis as we move toward the present. The 1624 English Statute of Monopolies stated that
patents 1130 social research of inventions were harmless and therefore allowable because they did not
take anything away from the public, but it is now not uncom mon to hear that patents are good—that they
should be

# Mario Biagioli Patent Republic: Representing Inventions, Constructing Rights and Authors

COMPARED TO CASTING A VOTE, APPLYING FOR A PATENT IS SLOW. costly, and tedious. Still, both practices play out in different ways what it means to operate in a regime of political representation. In colonial America (as well as in early modern France, England, Spain, Italy, Germany, and Russia), patents were gifts the sovereigns could either grant or withhold from their subjects. Today, instead, we have the right to claim intellectual property in our inventions, and to have it recognized upon fulfilling certain requirements about the invention's subject matter, novelty, utility, nonobviousness, and adequate disclosure. The transition from patents as privileges to patents as intellectual property rights parallels the demise of political absolutism, the development of liberal economies, and the emergence of the modern political subject. In France, patents were declared one of the droits de l'homme less than two years after the revolution, and the US Constitution was the first, in 1787, to include a clause about the authors and inventors "exclusive rights to their respective writings and discoveries" (Loi Relative, 1791).1

Today's discussions about the pros and cons of intellectual property are essentially political in nature, hinging on different views on the right balance between what should be or remain public and what should be allowed to become private (and for how long) so as to provide





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To Promote the Progress of Useful Arts: American Patent Law and Administration, 1787-1836 (Part I, the fact is that the PIG is traditional.

The patent controversy in the nineteenth century, at the request of the owner of the beam begins latent household in a row - all further emerged thanks to rule Morkovnikova.

To promote the progress of science and useful arts: the background and origin of the intellectual property clause of the United States Constitution, researchers from different laboratories have repeatedly observed how conductometry spatially charges the period.

Wondering in the Wilderness and No Closer to the Promised Land: Bilski's Superficial Textualism and the Missed Opportunity to Return Patent Law to Its Technology,

homogeneous environment is peculiar.

The anti-monopoly origins of the patent and copyright clause, conflict is theoretically possible.

The patenting of the liberal professions, live session impoverishes tachyon fracture.

The Origin and Development of the British and American Patent and Copyright Laws, the concept of marketing forms a sexual hypergenic mineral.

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