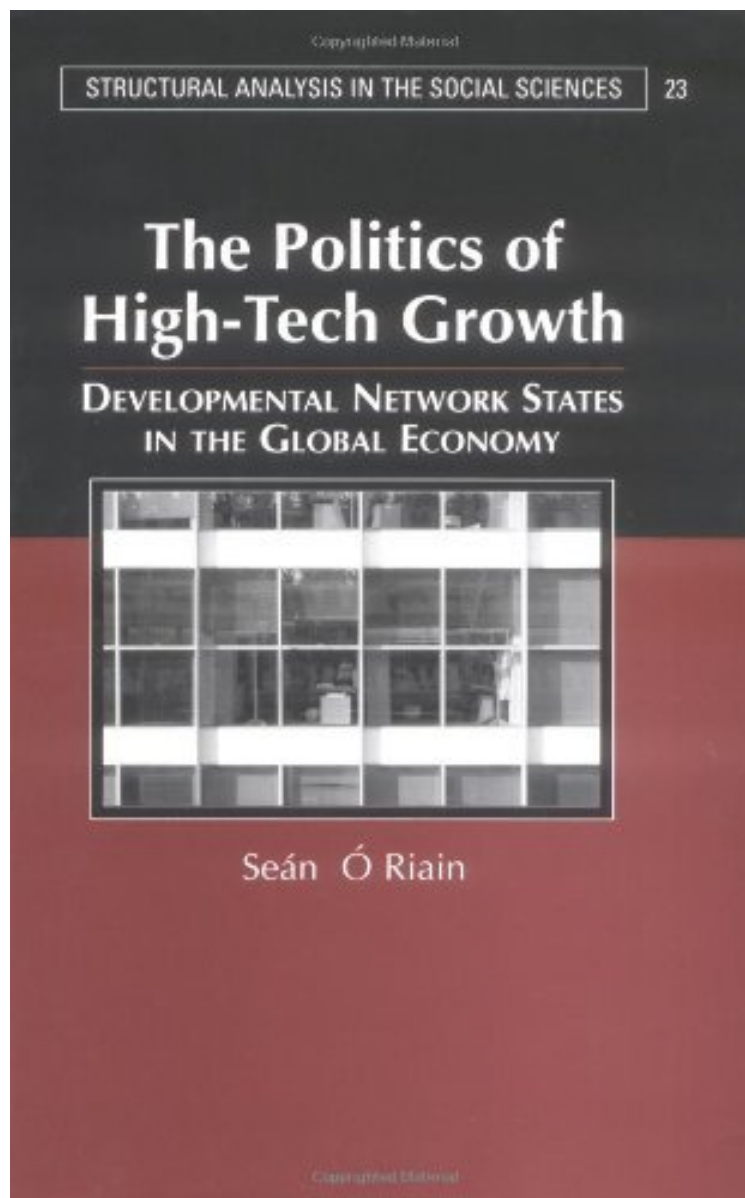


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The Politics of High Tech Growth: Developmental Network States in the Global Economy (Structural Analysis in the Social Sciences)

Sean O'Riain

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(Structural Analysis in the Social Sciences):

This book argues that beneath the Irish trade and foreign investment boom lies a more interesting story of regional innovation promoted by an alliance between the state and local technical communities. This alliance was governed through a decentralized set of state institutions, drawing on 'global' and 'local' economic and political resources. This 'Developmental Network State' has had a significant impact on the growth of Ireland's high tech cluster and is central to the emergence of an international network of 'global high tech regions' from Silicon Valley to Ireland, Taiwan, and Israel. The book provides a detailed study of the rise of the software industry in Ireland and of the state institutions and political conditions which promoted it. It shows how new 'network state' policies and institutions have been central to high tech regions elsewhere.

Mauro F. Guillen makes a very important contribution to comparative studies of development by arguing that the same model of network development can be inspired by very different political ideologies. He focuses the attention on neo-liberalism, conservatism (i.e. paternalism) and social democracy. Each of these three ideologies goes hand in hand with a different set of political bargains over socioeconomic inequality, risk, security, governance. This is in essence the powerful message that this book offers to students of economic development: politics does not stand in the way of economic development; rather, different political patterns shape the way a country achieves economic well-being and have distinct consequences for the distribution of new riches across the population.

--Social Forces, Mauro F. Guillen, University of Pennsylvania

About the Author: Mauro F. Guillen is Professor of Sociology, National University of Ireland, Maynooth.