



### Structure, Agency and Biotechnology

The Case of the Rothamsted GM Wheat Trials

By *Aristeidis Panagiotou*

**Pub Date:** 15 June 2017

**Binding:** Hardback

**Price:** £70.00 / \$115.00

**ISBN:** 9781783087037

**Extent:** 250 pages

**Size:** 153 x 229 mm /

6 x 9 inches

**Series:** Key Issues in Modern Sociology

**BISAC CATEGORY:** SOCIAL SCIENCE / Sociology / General SOCIAL SCIENCE / Agriculture & Food

**BISAC CODE:** SOC026000

**BIC CODE:** JHBA

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### GM debate in the wider social, political, economic and cultural context

Quite often the GM controversy is construed as merely a debate of “science vs politics.” In this book, Aristeidis Panagiotou argues against this simplistic reading and suggests that the GM debate should be embedded in the wider social, political, economic and cultural context. Towards this theoretically informed direction, a holistic framework and a set of concrete methodological guidelines are suggested which help the researcher to explore the deeper dynamics of the GM debate and the reader to acquire a richer understanding of the controversy. In the empirical part of the book, the author assesses the 2012 Rothamsted GM wheat trials and discusses the insights that the specific experiment can reveal about the broader problematic scenarios. Panagiotou suggests that the tension underlying GM technology should be resolved through sustained dialogue, public involvement and broad scientific consensus.

### Readership

The book primarily targets undergraduate students. It also provides graduate students and academics with a resource that bridges contemporary sociological theory and key controversies in agribiotechnology in a clear and concise manner.

### Contents

Acknowledgements; List of Abbreviations; 1. A Holistic Approach to the GM Controversy; 2. Rethinking Science, Technology & Society Relations: Definitions, Boundaries and Underlying Theoretical Problems; 3. Science and Technology Studies: A Critical Overview of the Field; 4. Benton, Mouzelis, Stones: Some Key Advances in Contemporary Sociology; 5. A Holistic Framework for the Study of Agricultural Biotechnology 6. The Rothamsted GM Wheat Trials (I): Technology and Appropriation; 7. The Rothamsted GM Wheat Trials (II): Ideology; 8. What is the GM Controversy? Science, Politics and Prospects; 9. Conclusion; Notes; Bibliography; Index.

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