

# The Spirit of Innovation: “In the Beginning was the Word” <sup>1</sup>

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Innovation has been a much-studied concept for decades. Where does the concept come from? In the mainstream economic literature, Joseph Schumpeter is considered the founding father of innovation studies. This talk challenges that interpretation. First, innovation is a concept that emerged centuries prior to Schumpeter and was much discussed, and even theorized about, before Schumpeter. Second, clear residues of the past semantic remain in our modern representations of innovation, including Schumpeter’s. To document this case, the talk looks at the determinant role of religion in the modern “spirit of innovation”.

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<sup>1</sup> St John, Gospel 1.1