

## TOPICS IN THE ECONOMICS OF SCIENCE

### **Topic 1. The relationship between students number and the organisation of scientific work.**

*Potential purpose of the thesis.* The number of students in an Italian university predicts most of the funding received by universities, which in large part is reflected in the number of academic staff employed. Universities however are considerably autonomous in making decision about how to allocate state funding with respect to hiring junior researchers or upgrading already employed staff. The relationship between the number of students and the choices of universities with respect to the composition of scientific work remains unexplored. A main objective of this thesis will be to investigate the presence and describe the heterogeneity universities display with respect to the choices adopted in terms of academic positions dynamics. Eventually results could be put in relation with scientific productivity. The present research project could also be undertaken at the department level.

Data. The source of most of the dataset is the Ministry of University and Research open data section: <http://ustat.miur.it/opendata>. Some city or regional level information could be also useful and collected from Istat (<http://dati.istat.it/>).

Internal internship aimed at collecting and systematise the dataset could represent an option.

### **Topic 2. Women career at Italian university departments.**

*Potential purpose of the thesis.* The present thesis project aims at first ad describing the dynamics of women in science, by looking at the trend of women presence within Italian university department in the last 20 years. Secondly it aims at investigating the characteristics of university departments that favour the recruitment of female academic staff. It will be possible to investigate the trend with respect to junior versus senior positions, or with respect to different scientific disciplines.

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