

Academic Inventors in Italy:

Patterns of Collaboration and Proximity with Industry

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Abstract

This paper studies the determinants of university-industry collaboration within the perspective of the role that different types of proximities might play in encouraging innovation collaboration. By employing a dataset of patents covering the period 1978-2007 we model individual collaboration decisions in order to highlight how inventors' characteristics and relationships to each other influence co-invention (i.e. co-patenting). We find that industry-university collaboration is less likely to occur when compared to other forms of collaboration with two important exceptions: *i.* when a leading scholar is involved; *ii.* when patents are weighted for their value using citations.