

20th International Conference on Science and Technology Indicators

Research organizations under scrutiny. New indicators and analytical results

Venue: Lugano, Università della Svizzera italiana (www.usi.ch).

Date: 2nd to 4th of September 2015

Conference website: www.sti2015.usi.ch

The 2015 Science and Technology Indicators conference, organized under the auspices of the European Network of Indicator Designers, will be hosted by the Università della Svizzera italiana in Lugano and will be specifically focused on the role of organizations in the research system and, accordingly, on methodologies for the development of indicators at the organizational level, as well as for the analysis to answer to relevance S&T policy and scholarly questions. The conference will be supported by the EU-FP7 infrastructure initiative on Research Infrastructures for the Assessment of Science, Technology and Innovation Policy (RISIS).

The conference builds on an extensive concept of organizations, which includes research performing organizations (higher education institutions, public research organizations, private companies), as well as intermediaries with different functions in the research systems, like funding agencies and technology transfer offices.

The relevance of the topic is twofold: on the one hand, scholars increasingly recognized the importance of organizations in managing and steering the research system and in providing framework conditions for research activities of individuals and groups; on the other hand, S&T indicators design increasingly focused in the recent years on the organizational level. Moreover, a number of large-scale projects are currently producing comparable indicators at the level of research organizations for the whole European space, thus opening unprecedented opportunities for analytical work: these include projects like the European Tertiary Education Register and Multirank for higher education, but also similar developments concerning bibliometric indicators (Leiden ranking, Scimago Institutions Rankings) and patents (the academic patents project), as well as research programs and funding agencies (the JOREP project). Harmonization and interoperability of these databases within the Research Infrastructure for Science and Innovation Studies (RISIS) EU project is likely to further accelerate this process.

However, significant challenges remain, including: the availability of data which are comparable across countries, methodological issues concerning aggregation in the construction of indicators (normalized impact factors being a case in point) and the definition of organizational boundaries, the analytical methods for the exploitation of these indicators for scholarly work, taking into account also the interaction with the groups and individual level. Therefore the specific focus of the STI2015 conference will be on:

- a) Methodological advances in the development of new indicators at the organizational, including the refinement of the methodology and conceptual background, the identification of organizations and the definition of their boundaries, the exploitation of new datasets and data sources and approaches value for matching different datasets.
- b) New insights on research organizations based on the exploitation of these data, based on theoretical frameworks from sociology and economy of organizations, as well as on methodological advances and the use of novel analytical techniques.

Topics

Following topics are suggested but not exclusive for submissions:

- Country and European-level characterization of the landscape of research organizations (including higher education).
- Advancements in methodologies to develop organizational-level indicators (both on the output and input side): definitions, comparability, aggregation, data sources.
- Efficiency and performance measures and analyses.
- Analysis of the interaction between individuals and organizations (concerning careers, performance, etc.). Work dealing with interactions between organization and groups, respectively individuals will be particularly welcome (like studies of individual's careers taking into account also organizational characteristics).
- Indicator-based analysis of the interaction between public policies and organizations, both at the intermediary and performer level (including the analysis of the impact of funding systems).

Submission types, requirements and formats

1. Short paper (max 3,000 words) with a comprehensive description of a completed study.
2. Poster (max 1,000 words) with an abstract of the study.
3. Special event session (max 90 minutes). Sharing experiences and ideas through non- traditional conference instruments. Special event sessions can take a variety of forms including: panels, fishbowls, roundtable discussions, wildcard sessions, demos/exhibitions

Deadlines for submission

Papers for oral presentation: 28th of February 2015

Proposals for special events: 31st of March 2015

Posters: 31st of March 2015

Program outlook

Start of the conference: Wednesday 2nd of September 2015, 10 AM.

End of the conference: Friday 4th of September 2015, 3 PM.

The program will include:

- Key note speeches by distinguished scholars in the field of organizational studies.
- Presentations of research papers in parallel tracks.
- Special events and panels on key issues for the STI community.
- A poster session on on-going research activities.

Conference organization

Program chair

Benedetto Lepori, Università della Svizzera italiana.

Conference committee

Jordi Molas Gallart, INGENIO-CSIC, University of Valencia.

Magnus Gulbrandsen, University of Oslo.

Theo van Leeuwen, CWTS, University of Leiden.

Patrick Llerena, BETA, University of Strasbourg.

Responsible for RISIS events

Sibille Hinze, IFQ, Berlin.

Responsible for the poster session

Emanuela Reale, CNR CERIS, Rome

Evaluation processes

Panels and special sessions proposals are evaluated internally by the conference committee. Once the proposals have been accepted, papers go through the normal review process in order to keep quality (the process will be managed together with convenors).

Papers: external peer review and then decision in the conference committee. Papers are assigned to individual members of the conference committee for referrals.

Posters are evaluated internally by the conference committee.

Contact

Benedetto Lepori

Research group on performance and management of research and higher education institutions

Centre for Organizational Research, Faculty of Economics

Università della Svizzera italiana

Via Lambertenghi 10a

6904 Lugano, Switzerland

e-mail: blepori@usi.ch

Tel + 41 58 666 46 14