

STAYING OR GOING: A HARD CHOICE

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SAPIENZA
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA



DIEM

DOING RESEARCH IS BETTER THAN WORKING



...BUT IT IS STILL BUSINESS

PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

- $n = 1$ (no statistical value)
- Patient description
- Anamnesis
- Results: 10 y follow up
- Discussion

CASE REPORT

~~EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDY~~

PATIENT DESCRIPTION

Patient description:

The patient is a 37-year-old white man, 1.70 m tall and weighing 78 kg
He is married, with 1 child and he lives in Rome
Recent physical examination revealed good general health

Anamnesis:

In July 1995 he graduated *summa cum laude* in Biology at the University of Rome
In March 2000 he obtained his PhD in Cell Science and Morphogenesis
for part of 1999 he was Visiting Scholar at Stanford University, CA
In July 2000 he started his post-doctoral training at the Mount Sinai Hospital, NY
In 2004 he became contract professor at the Sapienza University of Rome
In 2005 he got a permanent position as *tecnico laureato (sic)* at the Univ. of Rome
In 2007 he was invited researcher at the University of Paris VI, FR

Examination of the current status reveals that he is in good standing as:

- research associate in the Department of Histology and Medical Embryology
- responsible of the laboratories of Electron Microscopy and Calcium Imaging

WHAT IS THE IMPACT FACTOR?



THE IMPACT FACTOR IS AN ATTEMPT TO PROVIDE A QUANTITATIVE MEASURE OF ONE'S SCIENTIFIC PRODUCTION BASED ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE MORE IMPORTANT IS A PAPER THE MORE IS CITED BY OTHERS

 IT HAS HIGH IMPACT ON THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY

IF 1.15

my first paper

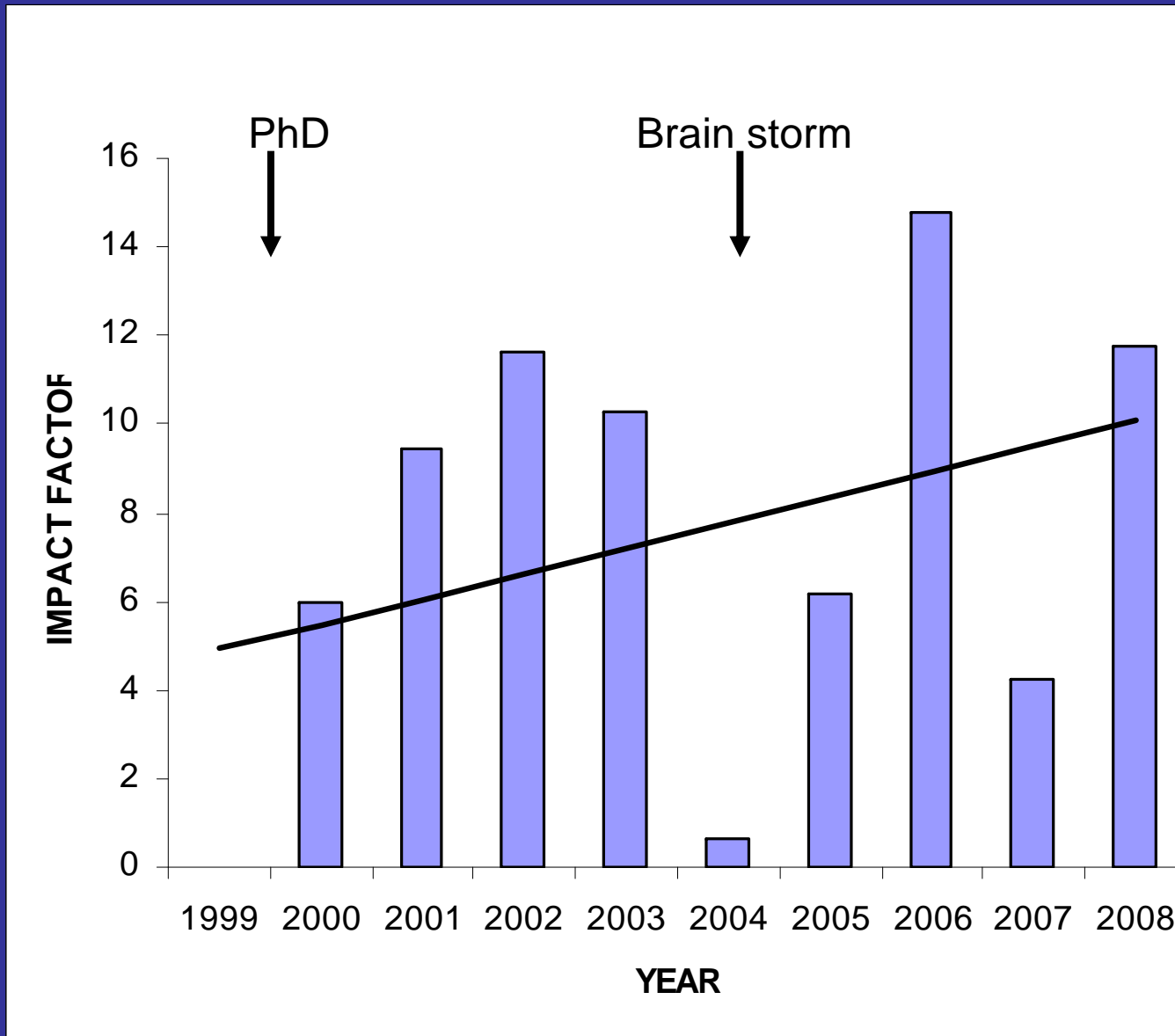
IF 14.79

my best paper

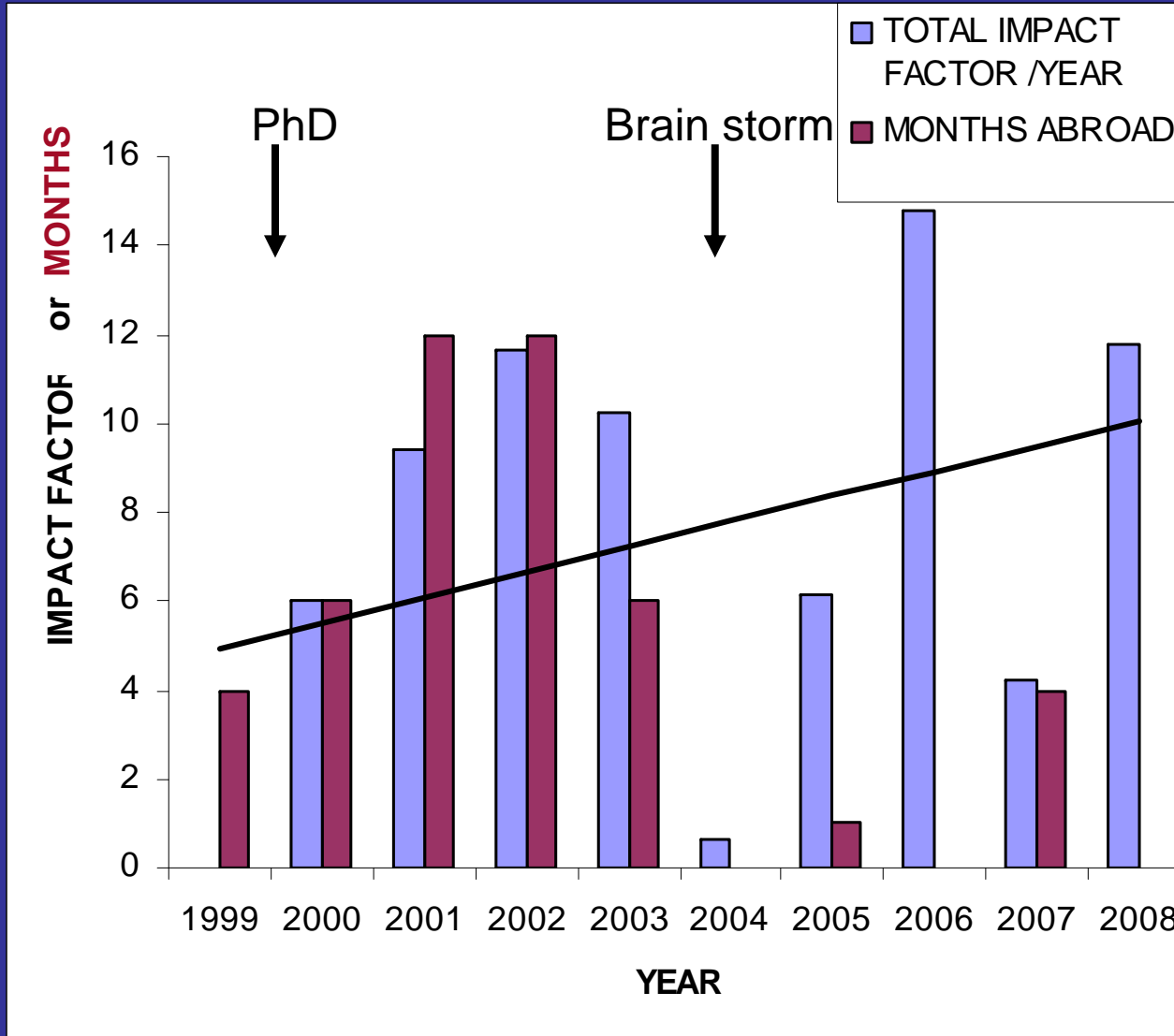
IF 28.75

a paper on Nature

DC TOTAL IMPACT FACTOR PER YEAR



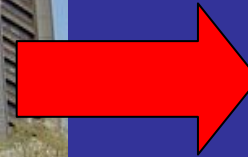
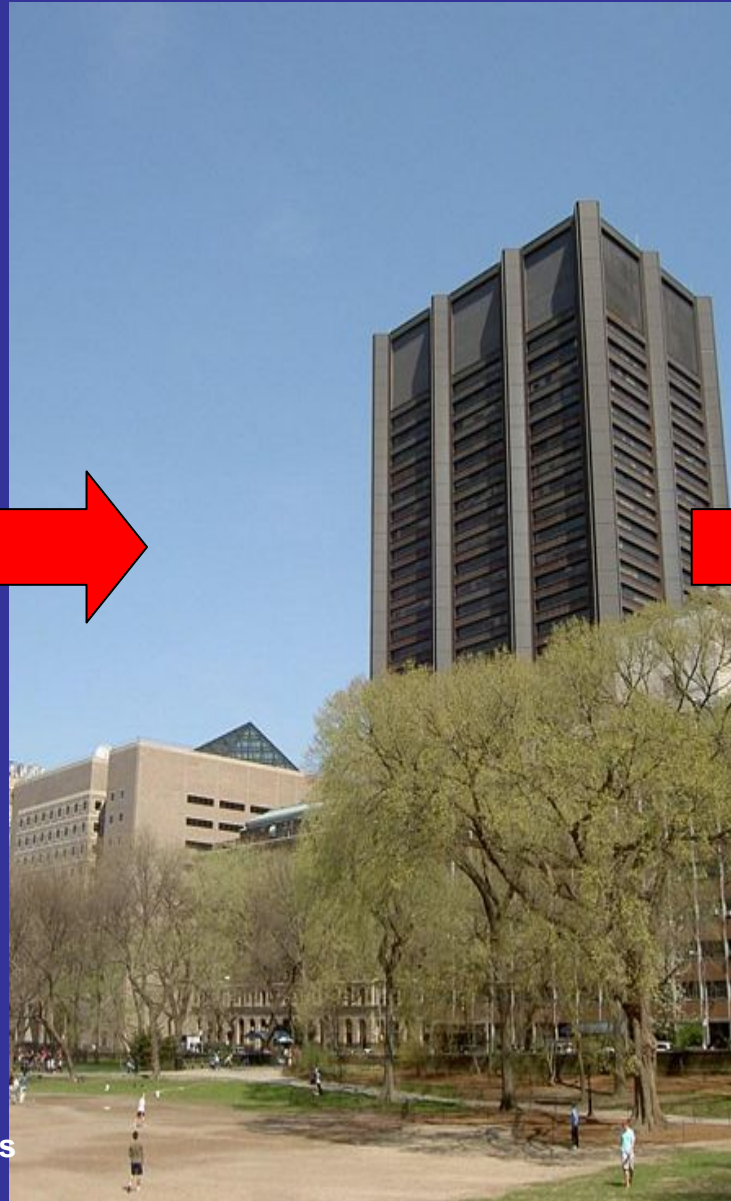
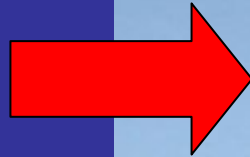
KINETICS OF DC PERMANENCE ABROAD AND SCIENTIFIC PRODUCTION



THE AMERICAN SYSTEM

IT IS ATTRACTIVE

<3 % OF
GROSS
DOMESTIC
PRODUCT

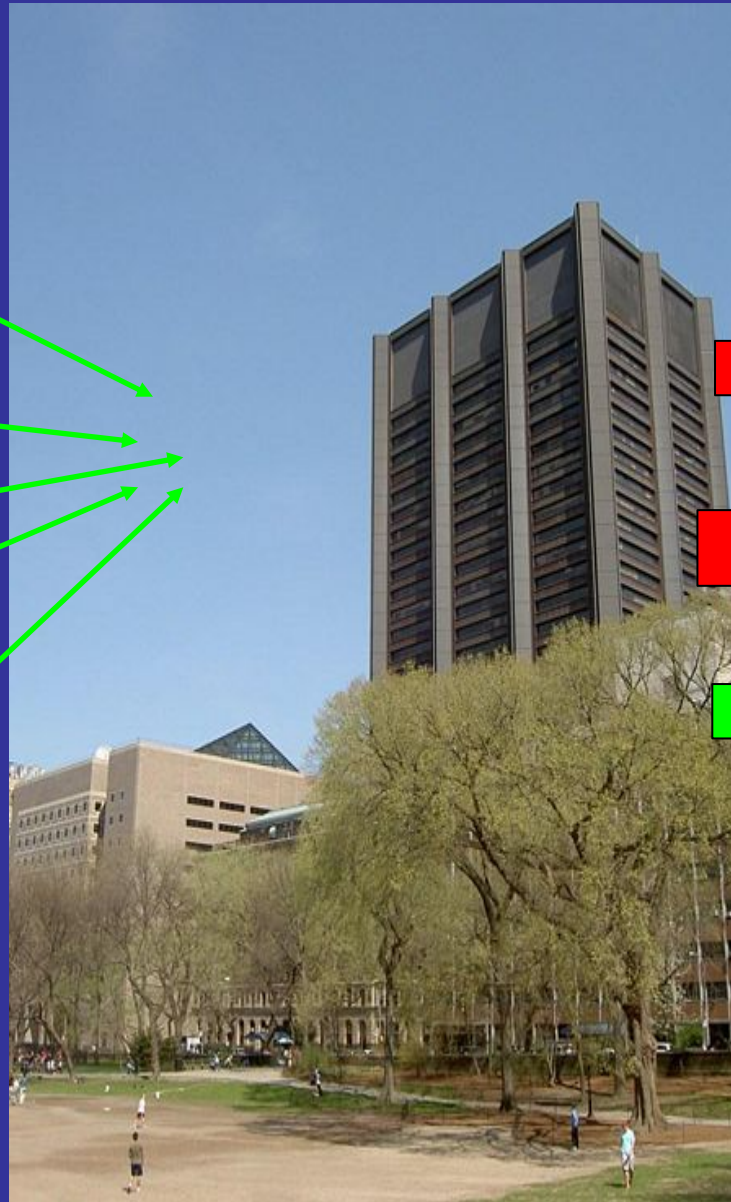
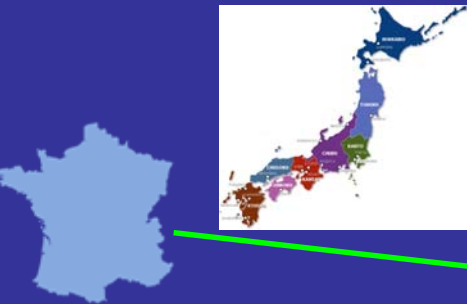


WORLD
LEADER
IN
RESEARCH

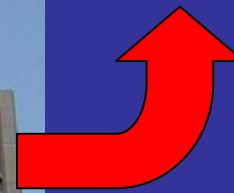
Science 3 July 1998:
Vol. 281. no. 5373, pp. 49 - 51
SCIENCE PRIORITIES:
The Scientific Investments of Nations
by Robert M. May

THE AMERICAN SYSTEM

IT IS PRODUCTIVE

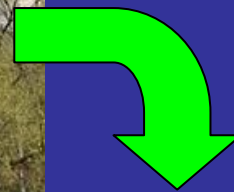


Fueling the GDP



Deliverable:

- Scientific papers
- Patents
- Experts

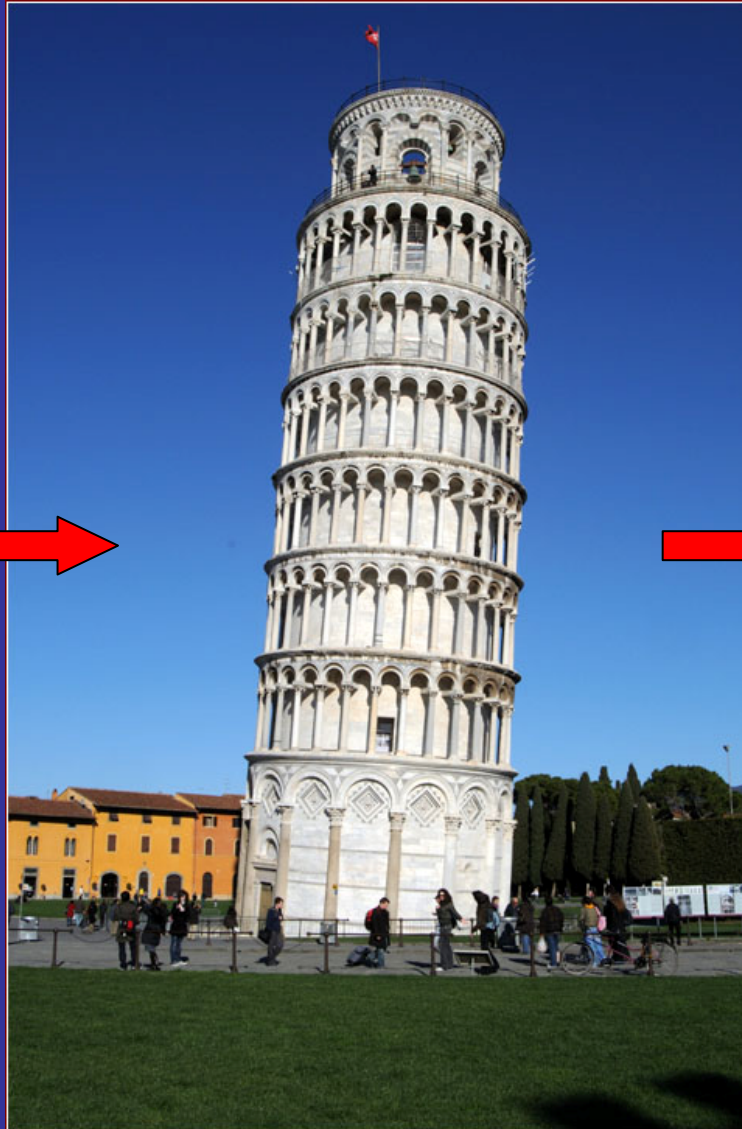


Undesirable:

- retirement
- Sick people

THE ITALIAN SYSTEM

~1 % OF
GROSS
DOMESTIC
PRODUCT



WORLD
CINDERELLA
IN
RESEARCH

Science 3 July 1998:
Vol. 281. no. 5373, pp. 49 - 51
SCIENCE PRIORITIES:
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THE ITALIAN SYSTEM: *WORK HARD, DREAM HIGH*

CREATIVE WAYS TO CIRCUMVENT PROBLEMS



VS



THE ITALIAN SYSTEM: WORK HARD, DREAM HIGH

CREATIVE WAYS TO CIRCUMVENT
ELEVATED PERSONAL EFFORT

Dip. I
MATTRE MOLETTI DARIO
ASS. No. 0017-2004 Liv.: D1

Cartellino Presenze Del Mese Di Ottobre 2008 Pag. 2

Data	PO	T I M B R A T U R E				ORE EFF	GIU	COD.	DALLE ALLE	GIUSTIFICATIVO	SCOST
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Gi 2	25	E0806	U1304	E1306	U1755	9:48				1:48	
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Sa 4	08					3:42				- 0:18	
DO 5	0D										
Lu 6	25	E0831	U1446	E1456	U1943						
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Ve 10	24	E0847	U1429A	U1844		9:38				1:38	
Sa 11	08					9:57				5:57	
DO 12	0D										
Lu 13	25	E0820	U1335	E1338	U1830						
Ma 14	25	E0814	U1411	E1412	U1903	9:40				1:40	
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Ve 24	24	E0810	U1744			9:35				1:35	
Sa 25	08					9:34				5:34	
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Ma 28	25	E0820	U1430	E1431	U1746	8:56				0:56	
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THE ITALIAN SYSTEM: *WORK HARD, DREAM HIGH*

CREATIVE WAYS TO CIRCUMVENT PROBLEMS

ELEVATED PERSONAL EFFORT

HIGH COSTS

TNF mouse recombinant 5 ug

USD 305
(20 ug) 180*

Euro 306,50

SOURCE: Roche US catalog

Roche Italian catalog

* <http://www.genscript.com/>

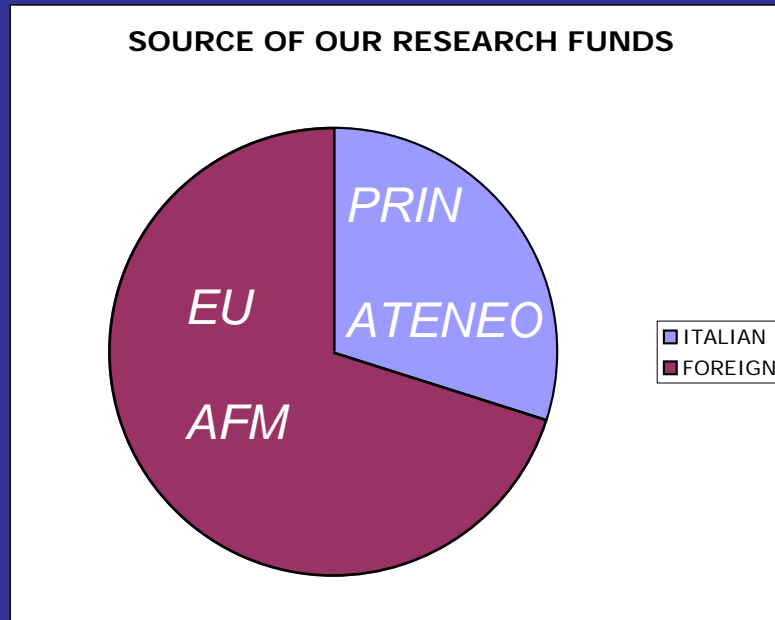
THE ITALIAN SYSTEM: *WORK HARD, DREAM HIGH*

CREATIVE WAYS TO CIRCUMVENT PROBLEMS

ELEVATED PERSONAL EFFORT

HIGH COSTS

LITTLE AND OBSCURE PUBLIC FUNDING



THE ITALIAN SYSTEM: *PERSPECTIVES*

FACTS

Legge 6 agosto 2008 n.133

- 40% REDUCTION OF THE BUDGET (FFO) FOR THE UNIVERSITY
- 80% REDUCTION OF THE TURNOVER etc.

Decreto legge 10 novembre 2008 n. 180

"Disposizioni urgenti per il diritto allo studio, la valorizzazione del merito e la qualità del sistema universitario e della ricerca"

VS

WORDS

LINEE GUIDA DEL GOVERNO PER L'UNIVERSITÀ 6 novembre 2008

Autonomia, responsabilità, merito

L'Europa, attraverso la strategia di Lisbona, ha posto il traguardo di una società basata sulla conoscenza...

AN UNFAIR COMPETITION

USA

vs

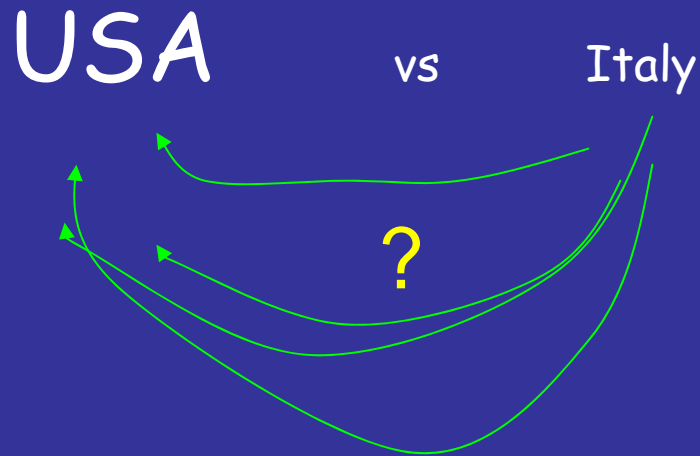
Italy

- technology and funding
- investments ↑
- “instability” of the position
(tenure-track, Assistant professor)
- turnover (even now !)
- high salary

- quality of life
- investments ↓
- permanent position
(tenured, Tecnician)
- no turnover
- low salary

Since BUSINESS IS BUSINESS...

AN UNFAIR COMPETITION



from: www.repubblica.it

All'estero per la ricerca che non c'è raccontateci la vostra "fuga"

http://www.repubblica.it/speciale/2008/appelli/ricercatori_estero/firme_raccolte.html

- WHO STAYS IS OFTEN SOMEONE WHO HAS NO OPTIONS
- WHO HAS NO OPTIONS IS OFTEN SOMEONE WHO IS LESS COMPETITIVE
- THE COUNTRY BECOMES ENRICHED IN LESS COMPETITIVE PEOPLE

A FEW QUESTIONS

- in which institution have I now more chances to do my job efficiently? - *how to increase mobility and competition among universities and research institutions?*
- why is there a rich mix of R&D abroad? - *can research institutions be the pivot of growth interventions?*
- in which country have I better perspectives of growth? - *how to make more competitive and attractive the italian system?*
- where will I have access to resources for my activity? - *how to make more efficient the funding system (avoiding micro-distribution as well as lobbying and clubbing for a few superstars)?*

ONE CERTAINTY

One thing I have learned in a long life: that all our science, measured against reality, is primitive and childlike -- and yet it is the most precious thing we have (A. Einstein)