
Flow of People, Flow of Ideas?

Measuring indirect impacts of research through the allocation of individuals across organizations

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS

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OVERVIEW AND GOALS

This project studies the production and flow of ideas through the economy. In particular we are interested in one important route: the flow of people through organizations and firms. How can we measure the impact of ideas flowing through different organizations? One question is the sorting of researchers into different research units, and how the composition add up to total research production. How can policy measures in the funding area stimulate the most effective allocation of researchers? Another is how people who have been working in research units contribute to productivity in establishments and firms where they work, also outside of research. Is there a productivity advantage of hiring individuals who have worked in a research unit? Is there an individual premium in the labor market for “being touched by science”? Can we measure these indirect impacts of research on productivity?

STRUCTURE OF PROJECT

Investigating the potential for matching administrative research data, collected in the Norwegian CRISStin project, data from the Norwegian Research Council and Statistics Norway, we aim at developing measures of both traditional research input and output measures, and to develop ways of measuring relevant interactions and networks between people who are or have been working in research units, with the ultimate aim of tracking ideas into productive use.

- 1) Matching data on individuals and institutions from the CRISStin data base to the educational registers. This will give us knowledge of where people had their education and took their PhD, and will provide data on research output at both individual and institutional level.
- 2) Matching the same individuals to administrative registers of linked employer employee data that are also matched to R&D surveys of firms. This will give us information of where people took their PhD, and to what extent that have worked in a research organization. This provides data to develop measures of individual research experience that can be entered into the production function of firms.

STATUS

The project is in an early stage of investigating the potential for matching of various data sets.

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