



ROARS

Return On Academic Research

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Roars in numbers

- *Founded by **8** scientists (NS,SS,HSS) Sept. 2011*
- ***14** editors (NS+SS+HSS + students + librarian + journalist)*
- *About **120** contributors*
- *In two years **1,300** articles (1-2 articles per day)*
- *About **14,000** comments*
- *About **5 millions** visits*
- *Average **10,000** visits/day - peak value **35,000** visits/day*
- *About **1000** followers on Twitter*
- *About **3,500** members in the Facebook group*



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What is going on in Italy?

- *Reformation process of higher education*
- *Heavy financial cuts*
- *Introduction of a research evaluation agency (ANVUR) that performed a controversial research assessment exercise and played a key role in the definition of the new hiring rules for academic staff.*



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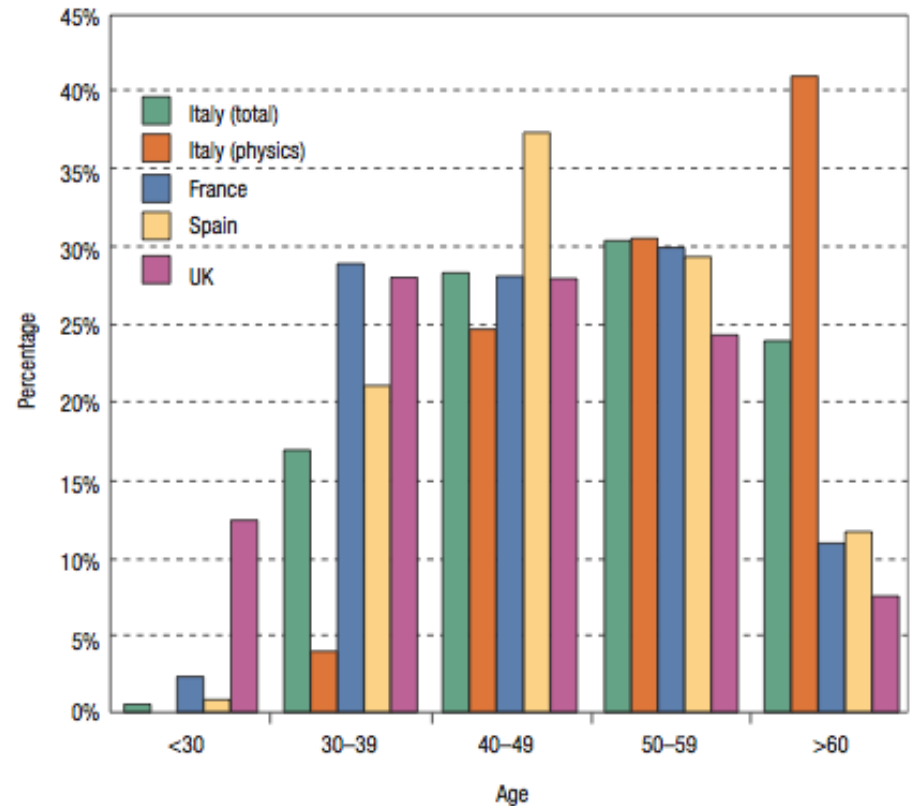
What is going on in Italy?

COMMENTARY

Reverse age discrimination

FRANCESCO SYLOS LABINI^{1,2} AND STEFANO ZAPPERI³

nature physics | VOL 3 | SEPTEMBER 2007 | www.nature.com/naturephysics



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What is going on in Italy?

SILVIO BERLUSCONI

"Why should we pay scientists when we make the most beautiful shoes in the world?"



Italy's prime minister explains why it is OK to cut spending on research and development.

IT

EuropeanVoice

11

29 July 2010



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What Roars do?

- *Information*
- *Culture*
- *Politics (as a byproduct)*



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What Roars do?

- *Higher education*
- *University*
- *Tuition fees*
- *Research evaluation*
- *Basic Research*
- *Open access*
- *How should research be organized?*
- *Innovation*
- *Economics*



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What Roars do?

- *The distinctive feature of Roars is the strict adherence to scientific and factual evidence*
- *Feeding the public discussion with scientific evidence from the academic world is essential in order to find the way in a world where **ideology** and **economic interests** dictate the agenda.*
- *Neoliberal attack to education and research*



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What Roars do?

- *All the actions of the government and the research evaluation agency were reviewed based on international statistics and scientometric state of art*
- *In this way, we gained a widespread reputation for reliability, a key reason for our success*
- *Nowadays Roars is often cited by national and international press*



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The European perspective

- We think that the cultural action is at the basis of any political action*
- Build a real common ground of the scientists and academics that can act as the reference frame for an European policy for university and research.*
- Otherwise the European policy will be driven by the Brussels bureaucracy that, instead of being at the service of scientists, will become more and more central in the definition of European strategies*



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The European perspective

*We think that the **Homo Scientificus Europeanus** should be at the center of Europe, rather than bankers and politicians. The formation of Europe must pass through **science and culture** and not through cold bureaucracy, incomprehensible roles and financial affairs*



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Thank you!



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