

27.4.2026

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**Title**

Did they sell their soul to the devil? : some comparative case-studies on academic entrepreneurs in the life sciences in Europe / Giancarlo Provasi ; Flaminio Squazzoni ; Beatrice Tosio

**Publication year**

2012

**Source/Footnote**

In: Higher education. - 64 (2012) 6, S. 805 - 829

**Inventory number**

33460

**Keywords**

Wissenschaft : Biotechnologie ; Ausland : Europa : Hochschulwesen allgemein ; Ausland : Europa : Forschung

**Abstract**

This paper looks at eight comparative case-studies on academic entrepreneurs in life sciences conducted in Europe in 2008. The interviewees were selected from the KEINS database that lists all academic inventors from Italy, France, Sweden and the Netherlands who have one or more patent applications registered at the European Patent Office, 1978-2004. The case-studies show that institutions largely influence the way in which scientists are coping with the normative uncertainty typical of science and technology systemic boundaries in the life sciences today. By exploring new local solutions, the entrepreneurial achievements of scientists are also establishing new institutional practices. Our empirical analysis helps to reconsider traditional dichotomies in the sociological, economic and institutional literature, such as publications versus patents and academia versus industry, and to illustrate the creative role of academic entrepreneurs. (HRK / Abstract übernommen)

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