

L'impatto della valutazione sulle scienze sociali in Italia. Lo strano caso delle discipline aziendali e della sociologia

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The Impact of Research Assessment on Social Sciences in Italy. The Strange Case of Business and Sociology

Abstract: The paper discusses the recent results of the VQR research assessment in two large fields of Social Sciences (business and sociology), which have achieved unsatisfactory outcomes. It examines some of the arguments that have been put forward to criticize the research assessment framework and methodology, such as the reduction of epistemological pluralism, the underevaluation of qualitative research, the privilege assigned to international publications, and the lack of consideration for the relevance of research to stakeholders. It argues that all these arguments are theoretically flawed with respect to the international debate on epistemic and methodological issues in Social Sciences and empirically untenable with respect to the current evaluation practice, largely based on peer review.

Keywords: Research assessment, Epistemic pluralism, Philosophy of social sciences, Methodology in social sciences, Qualitative methods.

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