

**Research Evaluation for the Social Sciences  
and the Humanities**

*RESSH 2015*

**Evaluating Humanities and Social  
sciences:**

**Are metrics really to blame?**

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# The Leiden Manifesto

“The problem is that evaluation is now led by the data rather than by judgement. Metrics have proliferated: usually well intentioned, not always well informed, often ill applied. We risk damaging the system with the very tools designed to improve it, as evaluation is increasingly implemented by organizations without knowledge of, or advice on, good practice and interpretation”.

“Bibliometrics: The Leiden Manifesto for research metrics”, Diana Hicks, Paul Wouters, Ludo Waltman, Sarah de Rijcke & Ismael Rafols, *Nature* 520, 429–431 (23 April 2015), doi:10.1038/520429a, <http://www.nature.com/news/bibliometrics-the-leiden-manifesto-for-research-metrics-1.17351#/b1>

# Specific features of SSH: publishing books or book chapters



“A few years ago, a European group of historians received a relatively low rating in a national peer-review assessment because they wrote books rather than articles in journals indexed by the Web of Science. The historians had the misfortune to be part of a psychology department. Historians and social scientists require books and national-language literature to be included in their publication counts; computer scientists require conference papers be counted”.

“Bibliometrics: The Leiden Manifesto for research metrics”, Diana Hicks, Paul Wouters, Ludo Waltman, Sarah de Rijcke & Ismael Rafols, *Nature* 520, 429–431 (23 April 2015), doi:10.1038/520429a, <http://www.nature.com/news/bibliometrics-the-leiden-manifesto-for-research-metrics-1.17351#/b1>

# The reasons of the inadequacy of common evaluation protocols to SSH

- An **intrinsic difference of nature** between SSH and other scientific fields?
- **External factors** linked to the institutional structuration of research in these fields and/or to current research behaviors?
- **Ontological** difference or **practice-based** difference?



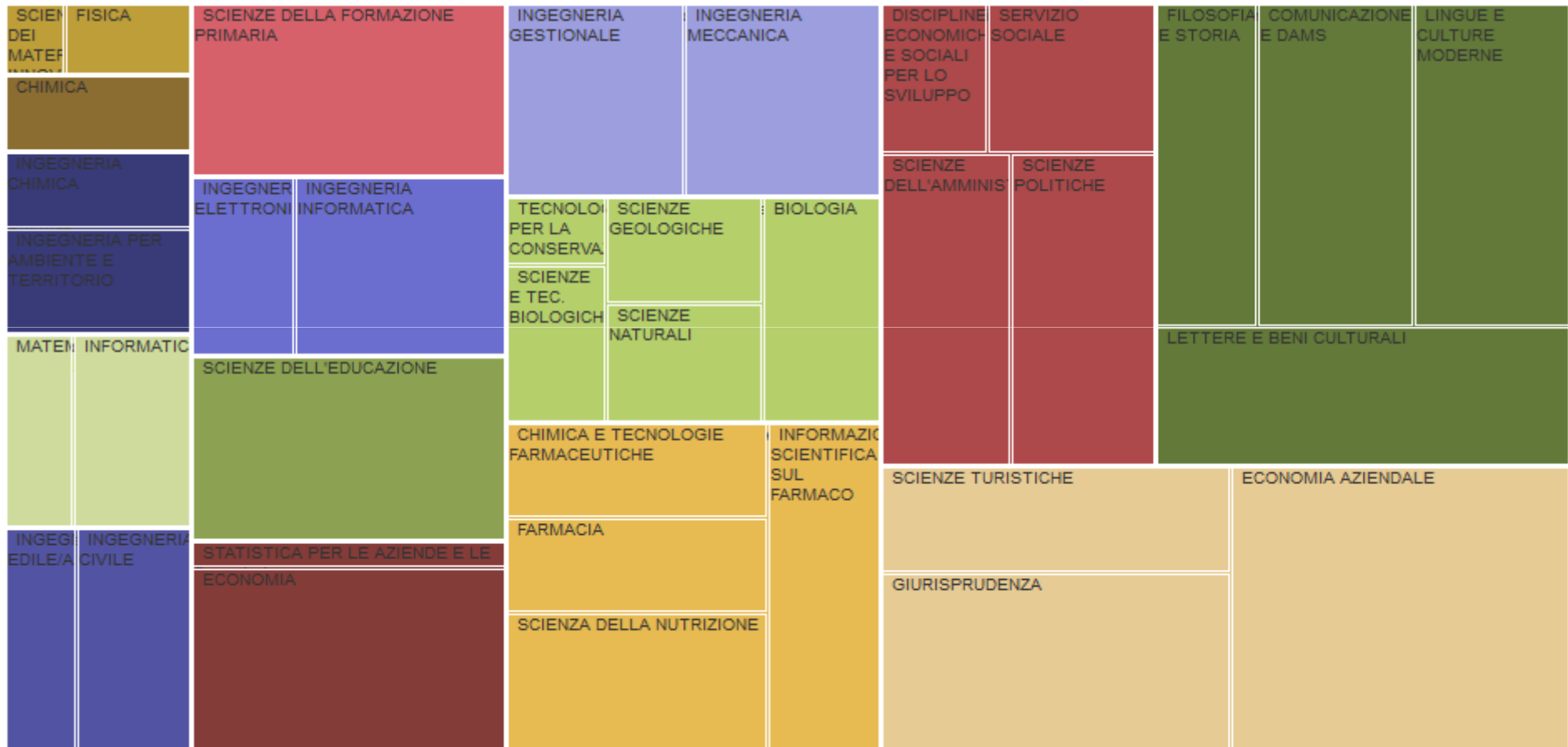
# Case studies

- CS1: Italian University
- CS2: French University Merger

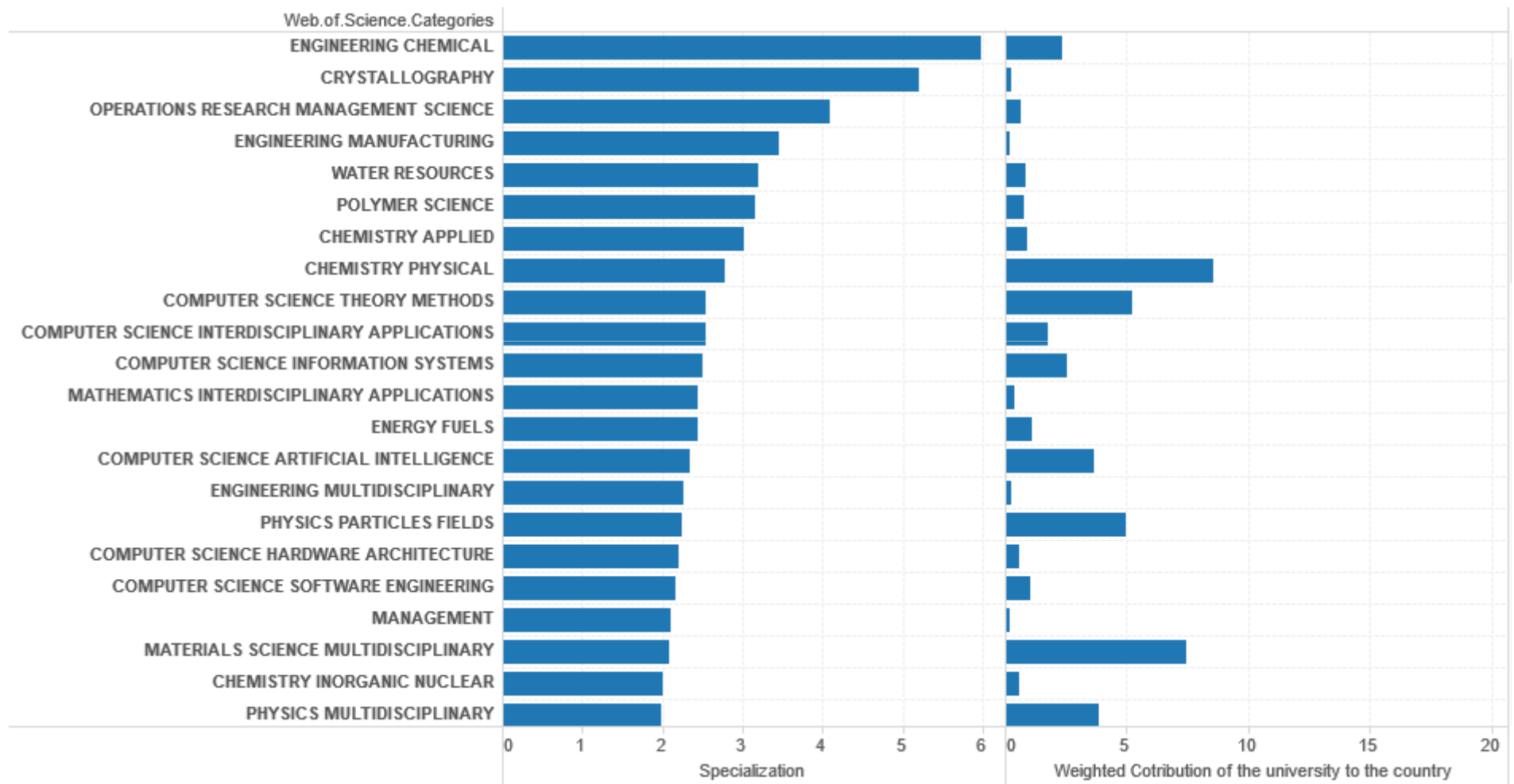
# Our method

- A **quantitative approach** (ratio between number of students in a department and research funding, number of postdocs, lecturers and courses, degree of internationalisation, co-authorship network and citation index)
- A **qualitative approach** (exploring the correlation between structures and research behaviours on the one hand and impact and visibility according to current evaluation protocols on the other).

# Proportion of students per dept. at Case study 1



# Specialization of CS1 (left) vs. weighted contribution of the university to the country (right)

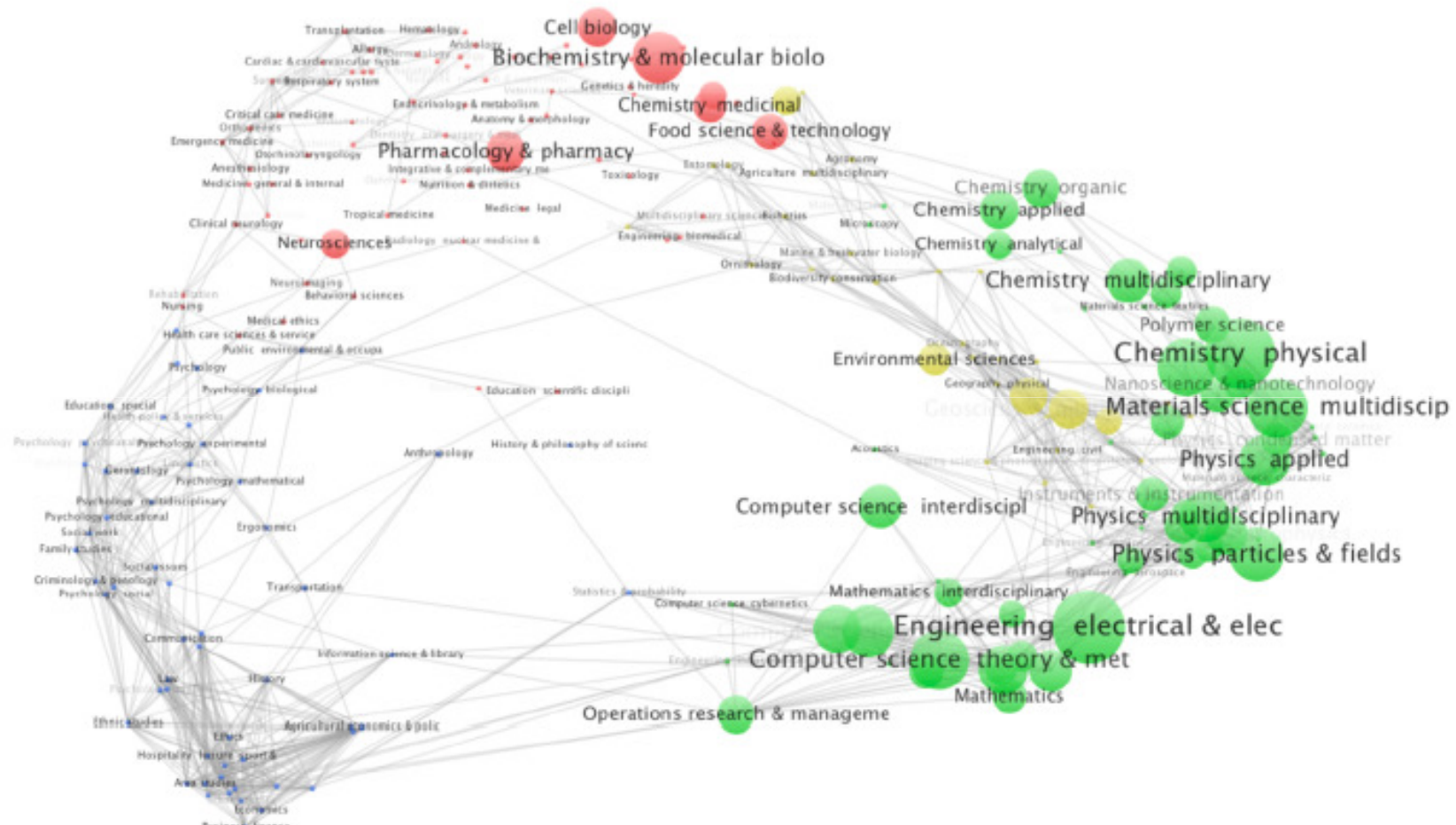




## Participation to funded projects per department

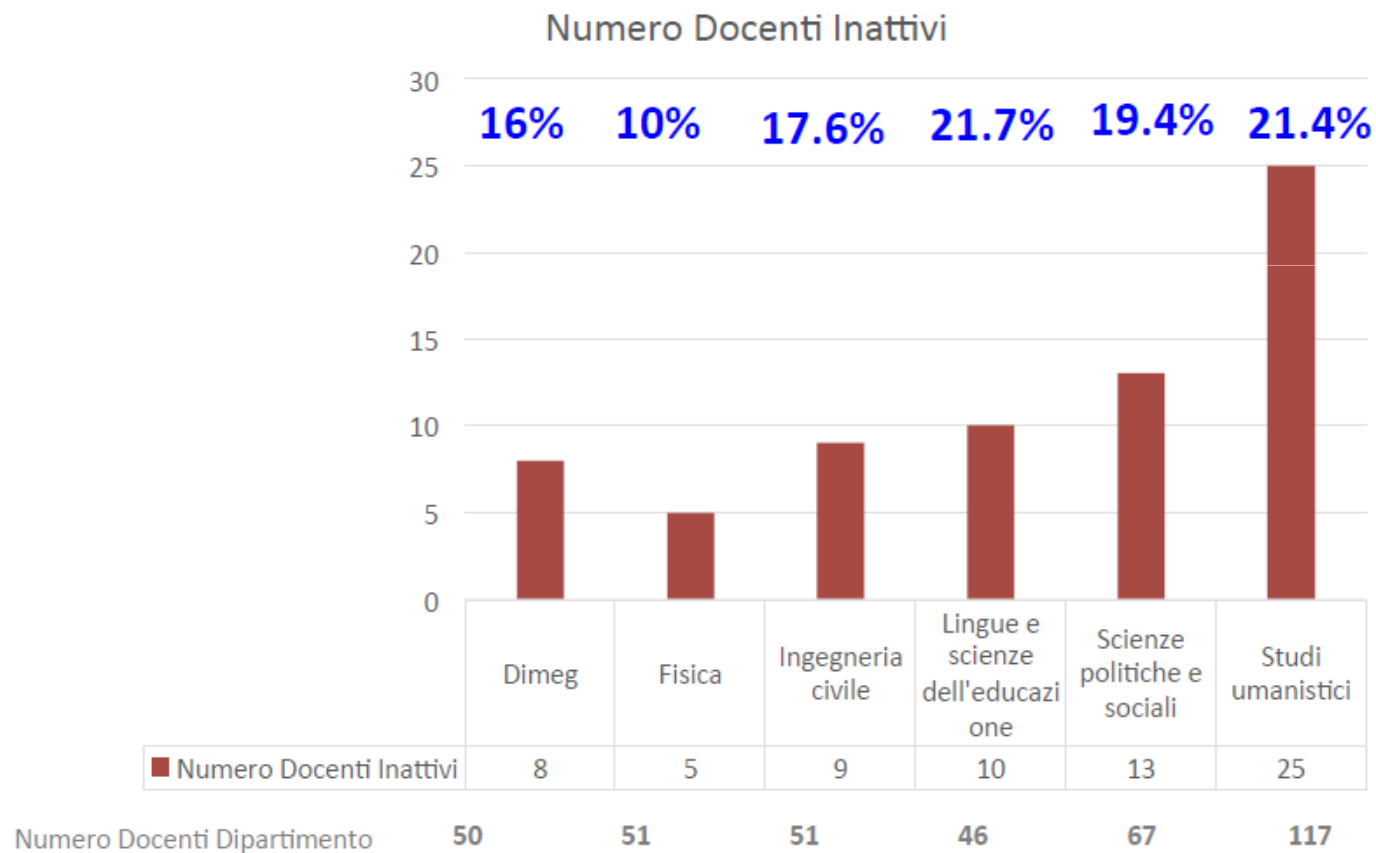
| Dipartimento                     | Prin | Firb | Pq | Numero Totale | Importo Assegnato - Prin | Importo Assegnato - Firb | Costo Eleggibile - PQ | Totale Importo |
|----------------------------------|------|------|----|---------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Dimeg                            | 2    |      | 3  | 5             | € 122.465                |                          | € 725.674             | € 848.139      |
| FISICA                           | 2    |      | 5  | 7             | € 246.323                |                          | € 1.432.017           | € 1.678.340    |
| Ingegneria                       |      |      |    | 0             |                          |                          |                       | € 0            |
| Lingue e Scienze dell'Educazione |      | 1    |    | 1             |                          | € 3.623                  |                       | € 3.623        |
| Scienze Politiche e Sociali      |      |      | 1  | 1             |                          |                          | € 47.100              | € 47.100       |
| Studi Umanistici                 |      |      |    | 0             |                          |                          |                       | € 0            |

# Map of CS1's scientific production



# Inactive staff per field at CS1

## Docenti Inattivi – Dip. Sperimentazione



# Co-authorships at CS1: Arts and Humanities vs. computer sciences

