

# *Research frontiers in Economic Sociology and Labour Studies (ResFron ESLS)*

Seminar

## *Rethinking universities' mission: multiple lines of inquiry*

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Room A, h. 13.00-14.30

Graduate School in Social and Political Sciences  
via Pace 10 - Milan



Following the growing and diversified demand of useful knowledge coming from both society and the economy, a set of other activities has been increasingly organised and carried out within universities alongside the traditional ones dedicated to teaching and training, and to research.

Depending on the context, this set of activities has been named 'Third stream' or 'Outreach' in the Anglo-Saxon countries, and 'Third mission', in large part of the European countries. Universities' third mission may include a vast and varied range of activities focusing on human resources, intellectual property, spin offs, contracts with industry and/or public bodies, and the participation in policy making.

Currently, two trends may be acknowledged in the study of universities' third mission. The first brings to the increasing consideration of continuing education and social engagement alongside technology transfer & innovation within the notion of university third mission. The second refers to a greater attention addressed to individual engagement in third mission activities, also referred to as 'academic engagement', and to the role played by specific organisations or organisational units in the relationship between university and the economy.

In this seminar, I would like to provide some examples of new lines of inquiry on the Italian case, which are pursued in on-going research projects.

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