

More Women = Less Corruption What about Universities?

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INTRODUCTION

Research on women and corruption has been mainly addressed in the political domain. Dollar et al. (2001), Swamy et al (2001) study the relationship between the higher rates of female participation in government: their findings show that - on average - greater female participation results in less corruption. Bjarnegard (2013) highlights that women are not trusted in clientelist network.

Generally, researches on the topics find evidence of a relationship between gender and corruption: a greater presence of women is correlated with low levels of corruption. Our aim is to [investigate this correlation in the academic context.](#)

OBJECTIVES

Italy is one of the countries with the highest corruption (53rd place worldwide - Transparency International).

Universities have been interested in recent years by various scandals and corruption phenomena

Women in top position are scarce. In particular while there has been a significant increase in the number of women with doctorates, women still remain underrepresented in research leadership positions and as chief investigators on funded research projects, and therefore they attract lower levels of research funding.

Period: 2009 - 2018



METHODOLOGY

Document analysis:

- anti-corruption plans (pursuant to Law 33 of 2013 amended by 97/2016)
- gender index (anti-corruption bodies; Board of Directors; departments' Directors; Rectors)

Content analysis:

- aimed at defining the corruption index of each University, according to the number of convictions for corruption (defined both as crimes against the public administration and phenomena of nepotism)



RESULTS & DISCUSSION

The results obtained from the document and content analysis have been linked in a matrix whose parameters are women and the level of corruption.

By combining this information, a positioning matrix is obtained for different universities

Are women less prone to corruption?

What are the links between transparency at institutional level, democracy, and the presence of women?

First results show that transparency and greater democracy reduce the level of corruption, thus increasing women's participation.

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