



Personal information

Name / Surname

Francesco Rentocchini

Personal Email

francesco.rentocchini@unife.it

Home page

[Personal website](#)

Nationality

Italian

Gender

Male

Professional Experience

Dates

October 2026 - current

Position

Faculty member, PhD programme in Economics, Management and Methods for the Sustainable Transition (ECMAN)

Area of specialisation

Economics and management of innovation, Economics of science, Industrial organisation

Name and type of organisation

University of Ferrara, Italy

Dates

October 2020 - September 2026

Position

Senior economic analyst

Area of specialisation

Economics and management of innovation, Industrial innovation & Dynamics, Applied industrial organisation

Name and type of organisation

European Commission, Joint Research Centre (JRC), Directorate B. Fair and sustainable economy, Unit B.6, Industrial strategy, skills and technology transfer

Dates

April 2016 - September 2026

Position

Associate Professor of Business Economics

Area of specialisation

Economics and management of innovation, Applied industrial organisation

Name and type of organisation

Department of Economics, Management and Quantitative Methods (DEMM), University of Milan, Italy

Dates

April 2016 - September 2019

Position

Visiting research fellow

Area of specialisation

Economics and management of innovation, Applied industrial organisation

Name and type of organisation

Southampton Business School, University of Southampton, UK

Dates

March 2015 - March 2016

Position

Associate Professor Strategy and Innovation

Area of specialisation

Management and economics of innovation, Industrial organisation

Name and type of organisation

Southampton Business School, University of Southampton, UK

Dates

September 2013 - March 2015

Position

Lecturer in Strategy and Innovation

Area of specialisation

Management and economics of innovation, Strategic Management, Industrial organisation

Name and type of organisation	Southampton Business School, University of Southampton, UK
Dates	August 2010 - July 2013
Position	Marie Curie Grant Holder (FP7-PEOPLE-2009-COFUND)
Area of specialisation	Economics and management of innovation, Applied industrial organisation
Name and type of organisation	INGENIO [CSIC-UPV] - Spanish Council for Scientific Research and Universidad Politécnica de Valencia, Valencia, Spain and Department of Economics, University of Trento, Trento, Italy
Dates	August 2007 - July 2010
Position	Post Doctoral Grant Holder
Area of specialisation	Economics of innovation, Industrial organisation
Name and type of organisation	Department of Economics & Management, University of Trento, Trento, Italy
Dates	February 2006 - October 2006
Position	Research Fellow
Area of specialisation	Economics of innovation
Principal subjects	Intellectual Property Rights in high-tech sectors, industrial organisation
Name and type of organisation	UNU-MERIT Research Centre, Maastricht, The Netherlands
Qualifications	
Dates	September 2015
Title of qualification awarded	Fellow of the UK Higher Education Academy
Name of organisation	UK Higher Education Academy
Dates	January 2004 - June 2007
Title of qualification awarded	PhD in Law and Economics
Area of specialisation	Economics of innovation and new technologies
Principal subjects	Intellectual Property Rights in the European Software Sector; Open Source model; Empirical Analysis; Econometrics of Panel Data; Industrial Organisation
Name and type of organisation	Department of Economics and Business Law, University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy
Award date	21st June 2007
Teaching Experience	
Dates	September 2019 - 2025
Module title	Economics of Innovation
Name and type of organisation	PhD programme in Regional Science and Economic Geography, Gran Sasso Science Institute (GSSI), School of Advanced Studies, L'Aquila, Italy
Role	Lecturer
Dates	September 2019 - September 2020
Module title	Data Management for Intellectual Property Rights
Name and type of organisation	MSc Management of Innovation and Entrepreneurship, University of Milan, Italy
Role	Convenor
Dates	September 2019 - September 2020
Module title	Advanced Strategy
Name and type of organisation	MSc Management of Innovation and Entrepreneurship, University of Milan, Italy
Role	Convenor
Dates	September 2016 - July 2019
Module title	Strategic management
Name and type of organisation	BSc Economics and Management, University of Milan, Italy

Role	Convenor
Dates	September 2016 - July 2019
Module title	Project Management for Innovation
Name and type of organisation	MSc in Innovation and Entrepreneurship, University of Milan, Italy
Role	Convenor
Dates	September 2016 - July 2019
Module title	Sustainable Innovation
Name and type of organisation	MSc in Innovation and Entrepreneurship, University of Milan, Italy
Role	Convenor
Dates	September 2014 - September 2016
Module title	Strategic Management
Name and type of organisation	MSc in International Management, University of Southampton, UK
Role	Convenor
Dates	September 2013 - September 2016
Module title	Current Trends in Strategy and Innovation
Name and type of organisation	MSc in Strategy and Innovation, University of Southampton, UK
Role	Convenor
Dates	September 2013 - September 2016
Module title	Sustainable and Responsible Innovation
Name and type of organisation	MSc in Strategy and Innovation, University of Southampton, UK
Role	Convenor
Dates	September 2013 - September 2016
Module title	Strategic Management
Name and type of organisation	BSc Management, University of Southampton, UK
Role	Convenor
Dates	July 2012
Module title	Economics of Innovation
Name and type of organisation	Summer School on Innovation Management, European University Foundation - Campus Europae
Role	Convenor
Dates	March 2009 - 2011
Module title	Statistical methods in economics
Name and type of organisation	BSc Business Legal Operator, University of Bologna, Italy
Role	Convenor
Dates	September 2006 - 2011
Module title	Development economics and international cooperation
Name and type of organisation	MSc in Human Rights and Humanitarian Intervention, Faculty of Political Science, University of Bologna, Italy
Role	Co-convenor
Dates	September 2006 - 2006
Module title	International Economic Relations
Name and type of organisation	BSc in Economics, University of Maastricht, The Netherlands
Role	Lecturer
Dates	September 2004 - 2007

Module title
Name and type of organisation
Role
Current work

Economics

BSc Business Legal Operator, University of Bologna, Italy
Lecturer

1. S. Amaral, D. Czarnitzki, C. Domnick, L. Napolitano and F. Rentocchini, 'Financial constraints for innovation in European SMEs: the mitigating role of intellectual property rights', revise and resubmit *Industry and Innovation*
2. P. Santoleri, F. Rentocchini and F. Lelli, 'LLM-assisted proposal writing in competitive R&D funding: Evidence from Horizon Europe', under review *Research Policy*, [link](#)
3. G. Cicerone, S. Losacker, S. Montresor and F. Rentocchini, 'Does environmental innovation scale up with urbanisation? Evidence from functional urban areas across OECD countries', under review *Urban Studies*
4. F. Rentocchini, A. Vezzani, S. Montresor and G. Orsatti, 'Walking the Green Line: Government Sponsored R&D and Clean Technologies in the US', in preparation for submission to *Research Policy*, [earlier version](#)
5. C. Seri, E. Zaurino, M. Martinez Cillero, L. Napolitano and F. Rentocchini, 'Superstars Have the Power? Technological M&As and Firm Markups', in preparation, [earlier version](#)
6. D. Consoli, F. Lelli, S. Montresor, F. Perruchas and F. Rentocchini, 'Moneytalks: spatial proximity and Venture Capital investments in green start-ups', in preparation
7. M. Fana, C. Domnick and F. Rentocchini, 'The Transition is in the Details: Evidence on Firm Greenness and Wage Inequality from Portuguese Administrative Data', in preparation
8. F. Fusillo, G. Orsatti, F. Quatraro and F. Rentocchini, 'Exposure to critical raw materials and innovation: Evidence from the Industrial R&D Investment Scoreboard', in preparation
9. G. Damioli, M. Vivarelli and F. Rentocchini, 'Automation technologies and employment inside business groups: evidence from the world's top R&D investors', in preparation
10. C. A. João, G. R. Lupi, F. Rentocchini and U. Rizzo, 'Building Back Greener? Natural Disasters, Entry, and Green Employment', in preparation

1. G. R. Lupi, F. Rentocchini and U. Rizzo (2026), 'Forever Young? On the technological impact of green startups', *Technological Forecasting and Social Change*, 233, 124840, [doi](#)
2. G. Cicerone, S. Losacker, S. Montresor and F. Rentocchini (2026) 'Trust the process: Regional process knowledge and the geography of circular economy innovation in Europe', *European Urban and Regional Studies*, forthcoming, [doi](#)
3. U Rizzo, F Rentocchini, M Seeber, L Ramaciotti (2026), 'Beyond the badge of honour: the effect of the academic excellence initiative on staff recruitment in Italy', *Oxford Economic Papers*, 78(2), 309-334
4. F Lelli, F Rentocchini, S Montresor (2025), 'On the geography of new green-tech-based firms (NGTBF): the role of "green demand" across EU28 regions', *Eurasian Business Review*, 15(3), 681-713
5. D Antonioli, A Marzucchi, F Rentocchini, S Vannuccini, 'Robot adoption and product innovation' (2024), *Research Policy*, 53(6).
6. Diodato, D., Huergo, E., Moncada-Paterno-Castello, P., Rentocchini, F., and Timmermans, B. (2023). Introduction to the special issue on 'the twin (digital and green) transition: handling the economic and social challenges'. *Industry and Innovation*, 30(7), 755-765. [doi](#)
7. Rentocchini, F. and Rizzo, U. (2023). The impact of teaching on third mission activities of higher education institutions: evidence from the UK. *Studies in Higher Education*, 48(5), 747-757. [doi](#).
8. Consoli, D., Marin, G., Rentocchini, F., and Vona, F. (2023). Routinization, within-occupation task changes and long-run employment dynamics. *Research Policy*, 52(1), 104658. [doi](#)
9. Furlan, A., Grandinetti, R., and Rentocchini, F. (2023). Inter-organizational routine replication: Evidence from major football championships. *Scandinavian Journal of Management*, 39(2), 101261. [doi](#)
10. Badwan, A. R., Tamvada, J. P., and Rentocchini, F. (2022). Evaluating mentorship-based learning in entrepreneurship education. *International Review of Entrepreneurship*, 20, 69-86.
11. Huber, F., Ponce, A., Rentocchini, F., and Wainwright, T. (2022). The wealth of (Open Data) nations? Open government data, country-level institutions and entrepreneurial activity. *Industry and Innovation*, 29(8), 992-1023. [doi](#)
12. Cicerone, G., Faggian, A., Montresor, S., and Rentocchini, F. (2023). Regional artificial intelligence and the geography of environmental technologies: does local AI knowledge help regional green-tech specialization?. *Regional Studies*, 57(2), 330-343. [doi](#)
13. Mei, L., Rentocchini, F., Chen, J. (2021). Antecedents of strategic ambidexterity in firms' product innovation: External knowledge and internal information sharing. *Journal of Small Business Management*. [doi](#).
14. Benassi M., Grinza, E., Rentocchini, F., Rondi, L. (2021). Patenting in 4IR technologies and firm performance. *Industrial and Corporate Change*, 32(1). [doi](#)
15. Clo, S., M. Florio, F. Rentocchini (2020). Firm ownership, quality of government and innovation: evidence from patenting in the telecommunication industry. *Research Policy*, 49(5). [doi](#).
16. Huber, F, F. Rentocchini and T. Wainwright (2020). Open Data for Open Innovation: Managing Absorptive Capacity in SMEs. *R&D Management*, 50(1). [doi](#)
17. D'Este, P., O. Llopis, F. Rentocchini and A. Yegros (2019). The Relationship Between Interdisciplinarity And Distinct Modes Of University-Industry Interaction. *Research Policy*, 48(9). [doi](#).
18. Leoncini, R., A. Marzucchi, M. Montresor, F. Rentocchini and U. Rizzo (2019). 'Better late than never': the interplay between green technology and age for firm

20. D'Este, P., A. Marzucchi and F. Rentocchini (2018). Exploring and yet failing less: learning from past and current exploration in R&D. *Industrial and Corporate Change*, 27(3), pp.525-553, [doi](#).

21. Iorio R., Labory S. & Rentocchini F. (2017), The importance of pro-social behaviour for the breadth and depth of knowledge transfer activities: An analysis of Italian academic scientists. *Research Policy*, 46(2), pp. 497-509, [doi](#).

22. D'Este P., Llopis O., Rentocchini F. & Yegros A. (2016), Exploring the distinct patterns of engagement in university-industry interactions. *Academy of Management Best Papers Proceedings*, [doi](#).

23. Leoncini R., Montresor S. & Rentocchini F. (2016) CO2-reducing innovations and outsourcing: evidence from photovoltaics and green construction in North-East Italy. *Research Policy*, 45(8), pp. 1649-1659 [doi](#).

24. Consoli D., Vona F. & Rentocchini F. (2016), That was then, this is now: Skills and Routinization in the 2000s. *Industrial and Corporate Change*, 25(5), pp. 847-866, [doi](#).

25. Consoli D. & Rentocchini F. (2015), A Taxonomy of Multi-Industry Labour Force Skills. *Research Policy*, 44(5), pp. 1116-1132, [doi](#).

26. Rentocchini F., D'Este P., Manjarrés-Henríquez L. & Grimaldi R. (2014), The relationship between academic consulting and research performance: evidence from five Spanish Universities. *International Journal of Industrial Organization*, 32, pp. 70-83, [doi](#).

27. D'Este P., Rentocchini F. & Vega Jurado J. M. (2014), The role of human capital in lowering barriers to engage in innovation: evidence from the Spanish innovation survey. *Industry and Innovation*, 21(1), pp. 1-19, [doi](#).

28. D'Este P., Rentocchini F., Grimaldi R. & Manjarrés-Henríquez L. (2013), The relationship between research funding and academic consulting: An empirical investigation in the Spanish context. *Technological Forecasting and Social Change*, 80(8), pp. 1535-1545, [doi](#).

29. Colombo M., Piva E. & Rentocchini F. (2012), The Effects of Incubation on Academic and Non-Academic High-Tech Start-Ups: Evidence from Italy *Economics of Innovation and New Technology*, 21(5-6), pp. 505-527, [doi](#).

30. D'Este P., Mahdi S., Neely A., & Rentocchini F. (2012), Inventors and entrepreneurs in academia: what types of skills and experience matter?, *Technovation*, 32(5), pp. 293-303, [doi](#).

31. Piva E., Rentocchini F. & Rossi Lamastra C. (2012), Is Open Source software about innovation? Collaborations with the Open Source community and innovation performance of software entrepreneurial ventures, *Journal of Small Business Management*, 50(2), pp. 340-364, [doi](#).

32. Rentocchini F. (2011), Sources and characteristics of software patents in the European Union: some empirical considerations, *Information Economics and Policy*, 23(1), pp. 141-157, [doi](#).

Funded Research

Dates	2019- 2020
Title	Skills, Employment and Education in the age of Robots, AI, and digital platforms: Measurement, Impact, and Policies
Funding organisation	University of Milan
Purpose	Transition grant
Role	Principal Investigator

Value	€15 000
Dates	2018-2022
Title	Centre of Excellence in Economics and Data Science (CEEDS)
Funding organisation	Italian Ministry of Education and Research
Purpose	Development of a research centre
Role	Member of the steering committee
Value	€6 700 000
Dates	2015- 2016
Title	Open data mini-MOOC: getting data out, bringing engagement in
Funding organisation	UK Economic and Research Council (ESRC)
Purpose	Pedagogical grant
Role	Principal Investigator
Value	£19 000
Dates	2013- 2014
Project title	Open data business models and risk in the digital economy
Funding organisation	Annual Adventures in Research Scheme - University of Southampton
Purpose	Research grant
Role	Co-Principal Investigator
Value	£10 000
Dates	2013- 2016
Project title	Scientific excellence and knowledge transfer, two riding together? Organisational factors, individual antecedents and societal impact
Funding organisation	Spanish Ministry of Innovation
Purpose	Research grant
Role	Co-Investigator
Value	€101 000
Dates	2011- 2013
Project title	Do scientific research networks contribute to the generation of technological discoveries? An analysis of scientific networks in biomedical research
Funding organisation	Spanish Ministry of Innovation
Purpose	Research grant
Role	Co-Investigator
Value	€16 000
Dates	2010- 2013
Project title	Structure and Performance of scientist-inventor overlapping networks: A comparative analysis of Italy and Spain
Funding organisation	Province of Trento & European Commission
Purpose	Research grant
Role	Principal Investigator
Value	€178 000
Dates	2008- 2013
Project title	Public policies and local development: innovation policy and its effects on locally embedded global dynamics (OPENLOC)
Funding organisation	European Commission & Province of Trento
Purpose	Research grant
Role	Co-Investigator
Value	€835 000

Dates	2007- 2010
Project title	The Transfer of Knowledge and Human Capital (TRACKs)
Funding organisation	European Commission & Province of Trento
Purpose	Research grant
Role	Principal Investigator
Value	€83 000
Dates	2005-2007
Project title	Fragmentation and local development: interpretative models and policy Implications
Funding organisation	Italian Ministry of Education and Research
Purpose	Research grant
Role	Co-investigator
Value	€122 000
Dates	2006-2007
Project title	Study into effects of allowing patent claims on computer-implemented inventions
Funding organisation	European Commission
Purpose	Research grant
Role	Co-investigator
Value	€1 000 000
PhD supervision	
Start date	September 2022
Graduation date	September 2025
Name of Student	Roy Mathew
Title of thesis	The twin-transition geography: Green and Digital transitions across heterogeneous regions.
Program	PhD in Sustainable Development and Climate change, Italian National Doctoral Programme
Start date	September 2020
Graduation date	December 2024
Name of Student	Francesco Lelli
Title of thesis	Essays on the geography of green startups
Program	PhD programme in Regional Science and Economic Geography, Gran Sasso Science Institute (GSSI), School of Advanced Studies, L'Aquila, Italy
Start date	September 2019
Graduation date	March 2024
Name of Student	Leonardo Vargiu
Title of thesis	European Research Infrastructures and Regional Innovation
Program	PhD programme in Regional Science and Economic Geography, Gran Sasso Science Institute (GSSI), School of Advanced Studies, L'Aquila, Italy
Start date	September 2014
Graduation date	September 2018
Name of Student	Alan Ponce
Title of thesis	Open Data in the Digital Economy: An Interdisciplinary Analysis
Program	PhD Web Science, University of Southampton (UK)
Start date	September 2014
Graduation date	September 2018
Name of Student	AbdulRahman Badwan
Title of thesis	The role of mentorship in entrepreneurship education

Presentations at International Conferences (2015-2020)

- ◇ 16/9/2020, University of Agder webinar series, Norway, 'The Wealth of (Open Data) Nations? Examining the interplay of open data and country-level institutions for entrepreneurial activity at the country-level'
- ◇ 19/5/2020, Gran Sasso Science Institute (GSSI) social sciences webinar series, Italy, 'The Wealth of (Open Data) Nations? Examining the interplay of open data and country-level institutions for entrepreneurial activity at the country-level'
- ◇ 26-28/9/2019, Workshop on 'Artificial Intelligence – Between Panacea and Skynet', University of Bremen, Bremen, Germany, 'Regional artificial intelligence and the geography of environmental technologies: Does the digital transformation meet the green transition?'
- ◇ 16-18/9/2019, Associazione Italiana Scienze Regionali (AISRE) conference at Gran Sasso Science Institute, L'Aquila, Italy, 'Regional artificial intelligence and the geography of environmental technologies: Does the digital transformation meet the green transition?'
- ◇ 3-5/6/2019, EMAEE 2019 Conference: Economics, Governance and Management of AI, Robots and Digital Transformations, University of Sussex, UK, 'The Wealth of (Open Data) Nations? Examining the interplay of open data and country-level institutions for entrepreneurial activity at the country level'
- ◇ 20-22/6/2018, EURAM conference, Iceland University, Iceland 'Organisational-Level Factors And Academic Spinoffs' Growth: University Resources And Incentive Mechanisms'
- ◇ 11-13/6/2018, DRUID summer conference, Copenhagen Business School, Denmark, 'Organisational-Level Factors And Academic Spinoffs' Growth: University Resources And Incentive Mechanisms'
- ◇ 5-9/8/2016, 13th European Network on the Economics of the Firm (ENEF) meeting, University of Torino, Turin, Italy, 'Better late than never: a longitudinal quantile regression approach to the interplay between green technology and age for firm growth'
- ◇ 7-9/9/2016, 50th SPRU Anniversary Conference, University of Sussex, Brighton, UK, 'University Management Practices and Academic Spin-offs'
- ◇ 5-9/8/2016, 76th Annual Meeting of the Academy of Management, Anaheim, California, US, 'Exploring and Yet Failing Less: learning from past and current exploration in R&D'
- ◇ 22-24/6/2016, Eurkind GCW 2016 Conference, Polytechnic University of Valencia, Valencia, Spain, 'University Management Practices and Academic Spin-offs'
- ◇ 15-17/6/2015, DRUID summer conference, LUISS, Rome, Italy, 'Environmental innovations and firm's boundaries: evidence from two ecological industries in North-East Italy'
- ◇ 1-3/6/2015, EMAEE 2015 Conference: Globalisation, Innovation and Economic Change, University of Maastricht, 'Simultaneous embeddedness in different networks and its effect on scientific knowledge generation: evidence from Spanish scientists'

Honours/Distinction

- ◇ National Habilitation as full professor in economia politica (SECS-P01), politica economica (SECS-P02), economia applicata (SECS-P/06), economia e gestione delle imprese (SECS-P08), ingegneria economico-gestionale (ING-IND-35)
- ◇ AoM 2016 Best Paper Proceedings 'Star scientists versus interdisciplinary scientists? An inquiry into the antecedents of distinct modes of university-industry interaction'
- ◇ Best Paper Award at the 2015 University-Industry Interaction Conference, held in Berlin on 24th-26th June 2015 for the paper on 'Star scientists versus interdisciplinary scientists? An inquiry into the antecedents of distinct modes of university-industry interaction'.
- ◇ 'Outstanding Reviewer Award 2015' from the European Academy of Management Annual Conference (Strategic Management division)
- ◇ September 2015 - Fellow of the UK Higher Education Academy

Community activities

Journal refereeing activities
[past 5 years]

Journal of Economic Geography, Journal of Product Innovation Management, Research Policy, R&D Management, Technological Forecasting and Social Change, International Journal of Industrial Organization, Long Range Planning, Regional Studies, Small Business Economics, Journal of Economic Behaviour and Organization, European Management Review, Economics of Innovation and New Technology, Industry & Innovation

Editorial activities [past 5 years]

Associate editor of the *European Management Review* and invited editor for special issues on *Small Business Economics* and *Industry and Innovation*

Mother tongue

Italian

Other Languages

English, Spanish

*Self-assessment
European level^(*)*

English

Spanish

Understanding				Speaking		Writing	
Listening		Reading		Spoken interaction	Spoken production		
C2	Proficient user	C2	Proficient user	C2	Proficient user	C2	Proficient user
C1	Proficient user	C1	Proficient user	B2	Independent user	B1	Independent user

^(*) Common European Framework of Reference (CEF) level