

Francesca Ervas

Some Data on the Underrepresentation of Women in Philosophy in Italy

An update with data from 2021

In this paper, we present an update of the data on the (under)representation of women in Philosophy in the Italian Universities we gathered at the end of 2020. All data gathered at the end of 2020 are available [here](#).

Methodology

We gathered the data at the end of December 2021 at the following public web page provided by MIUR: cercauniversita.cineca.it/php5/docenti/cerca.php

The data are sorted by Italian Scientific Sector (<https://miur.gov.it/settori-concorsuali-e-settori-scientifico-disciplinari>, L. 240/2010, art. 5). As classified by the Italian Minister of Instruction, University and Research (MIUR), Philosophy is not a single scientific area but it is scattered in three scientific areas: area 11 (History, Philosophy, Education and Psychology), area 12 (Law), and area 14 (Political and Social Sciences). We therefore included under the label "Philosophy", the following scientific sectors:

- 11 C1:** Theoretical Philosophy
- 11 C2:** Logic, History and Philosophy of Science
- 11 C3:** Moral Philosophy
- 11 C4:** Aesthetics and Philosophy of Languages
- 11 C5:** History of Philosophy
- 12 H3:** Philosophy of Law
- 14 A1:** Political Philosophy

The data collection aimed to understand whether there is a difference in the distribution of women vs. men in the following Italian University ranks (translation of titles in parentheses):

Professoressa Ordinaria vs. Professore Ordinario (Female vs. Male Full Professor: FP F vs. FP M);

Professoressa Associata vs. Professore Associato (Female vs. Male Associate Professor: AP F vs. AP M);

Ricercatrice vs. Ricercatore a tempo indeterminato (t.i.) (Female vs. Male Permanent Researcher: PR F vs. PR M);

Ricercatrice vs. Ricercatore a tempo determinato di tipo B (t.d. B) (Female vs. Male Temporary Researcher type B: TRB F vs. TRB M);

Ricercatrice vs. Ricercatore a tempo determinato di tipo A (t.d. A) (Female vs. Male Temporary Researcher type A: TRA F vs. TRA M).

Results

At December 2021, there are still significantly more men than women employed in permanent positions ($p < 0.002$; women: 31.32%, men: 68.68%), while the difference between men and women in precarious staff is no more significant ($p = 0.134$; women: 41.60%, men: 58.40%) (the difference was instead significant in 2020: $p = 0.04$).

In the case of permanent staff, the results still present a significant difference between women and men, due to the greater number of men employed as Full Professor ($p = 0.0003$) and Associate Professor ($p = 0.0033$). The difference between women and men employed as Temporary Researchers with tenure track (TRB) is on the threshold of statistical significance ($p = 0.058$). There is instead no significant difference between women and men, when employed as Permanent Researchers (PR) ($p = 0.422$) (see Fig. 1).

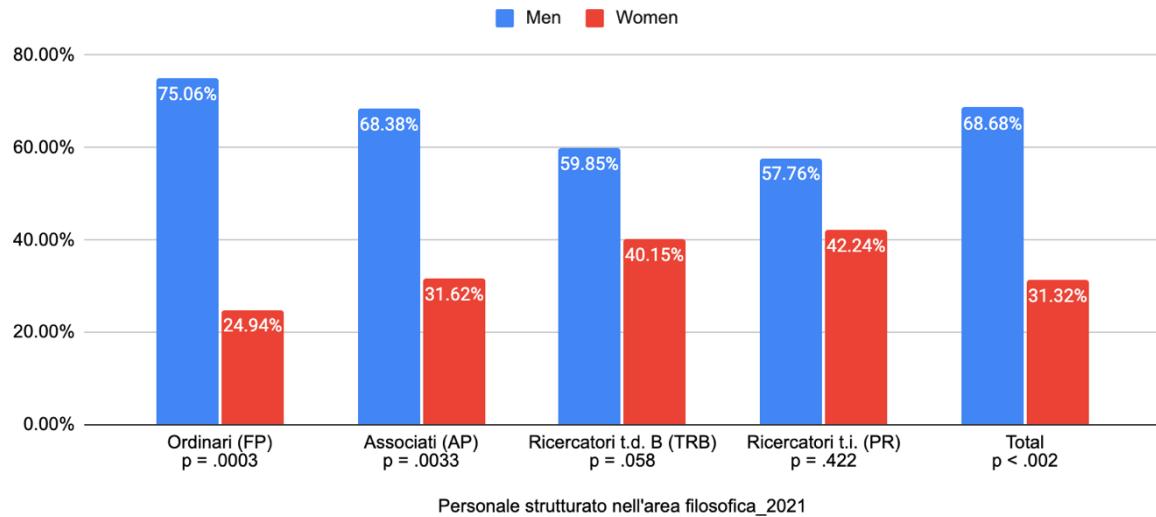


Fig. 1 Percentage of women and men employed in Philosophy as Permanent Staff (including Temporary Researchers with tenure track) at December 2021

In the case of precarious staff, the results still present a significant difference between women and men in the case of Temporary Researchers without tenure track (TRA) ($p = 0.0027$) and no significant difference between women and men, when employed as postdoctoral researchers ($p = 0.562$) (see Fig. 2).

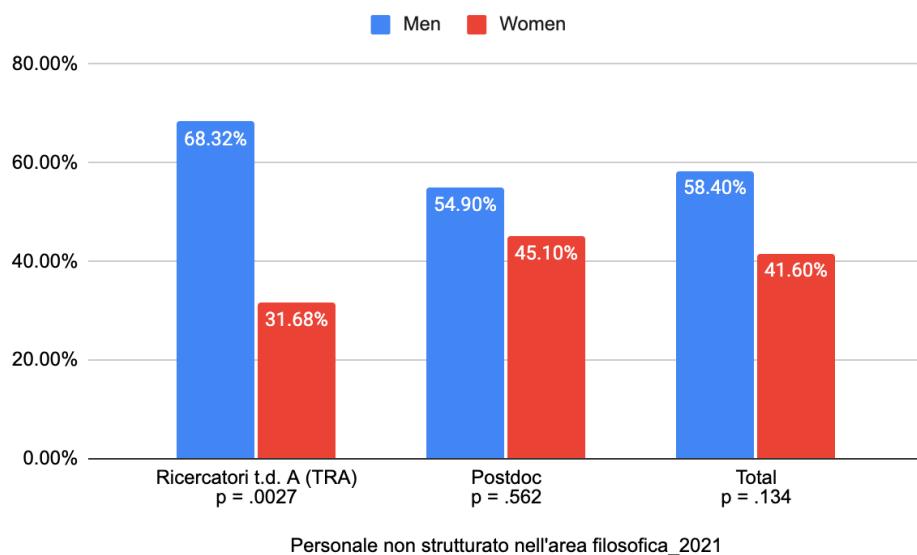


Fig. 2 Percentage of women and men employed in Philosophy as Precarious Staff at December 2021

Discussion

Overall, the results at the end of 2021 are similar to the results presented at the end of 2020: in the ranks with more academic power (FP, AP), women are significantly less than men and the statistical significance of the difference increases as the status of the rank increases. However, at the end of 2021 the difference between women and men at the TRB rank is on the threshold ($p = 0.058$), while it was significant at the end of 2020 ($p = 0.030$). The PR rank still presents no significant women vs. men difference ($p = 0.422$, women: 57.76%, men: 42.24%). However, when compared to the results presented at the end of 2020, there is no more significant difference between women and men in the precarious staff. This is especially due to the rank of postdoctoral researchers (in 2021: $p = 0.562$, women: 45.10%, men: 54.90%; in 2020: $p = 0.123$, women: 40.24%, men: 59.76%), as the difference between women and men employed as Temporary Researchers without tenure track (TRA) still remain significant (in 2021: $p = 0.0027$, women: 31.68%, men: 68.32%; in 2020: $p = 0.009$, women: 32.18%, men: 67.82%).

Conclusion

In this paper, we presented the data gathered at the end of 2021 about the presence of women and men in the Italian University ranks in the Philosophy area. Overall, the results show that, similarly to previous academic years women are underrepresented in Philosophy in Italy, specifically in those ranks or roles where their research could be independent.