

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910779078703321
Autore	Stephan Paula E
Titolo	How economics shapes science [[electronic resource] /] / Paula Stephan
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge, Mass., : Harvard University Press, 2012
ISBN	0-674-06275-2
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (384 p.)
Disciplina	500
Soggetti	Research - Economic aspects Science and state
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Figures and Tables -- Preface -- Abbreviations -- Chapter One. What Does Economics Have To Do with Science? -- Chapter Two. Puzzles and Priority -- Chapter Three. Money -- Chapter Four. The Production of Research: People and Patterns of Collaboration -- Chapter Five. The Production of Research: Equipment and Materials -- Chapter Six. Funding for Research -- Chapter Seven. The Market for Scientists and Engineers -- Chapter Eight. The Foreign Born -- Chapter Nine. The Relationship of Science to Economic Growth -- Chapter Ten. Can We Do Better? -- Appendix -- Notes -- References -- Acknowledgments -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	The beauty of science may be pure and eternal, but the practice of science costs money. And scientists, being human, respond to incentives and costs, in money and glory. Choosing a research topic, deciding what papers to write and where to publish them, sticking with a familiar area or going into something new-the payoff may be tenure or a job at a highly ranked university or a prestigious award or a bump in salary. The risk may be not getting any of that. At a time when science is seen as an engine of economic growth, Paula Stephan brings a keen understanding of the ongoing cost-benefit calculations made by individuals and institutions as they compete for resources and reputation. She shows how universities offload risks by increasing the percentage of non-tenure-track faculty, requiring tenured faculty to pay salaries from outside grants, and staffing labs with foreign workers

on temporary visas. With funding tight, investigators pursue safe projects rather than less fundable ones with uncertain but potentially path-breaking outcomes. Career prospects in science are increasingly dismal for the young because of ever-lengthening apprenticeships, scarcity of permanent academic positions, and the difficulty of getting funded. *Vivid, thorough, and bold, How Economics Shapes Science* highlights the growing gap between the haves and have-nots—especially the vast imbalance between the biomedical sciences and physics/engineering—and offers a persuasive vision of a more productive, more creative research system that would lead and benefit the world.
