

## **Light in the Empirical Shadow: Base-Lining the Impact of Academic Patenting Legislation in Norway**

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As the commercialization of academic research has risen as a target area in many countries, the need for better empirical data collection to evaluate policy changes on this front has increasingly been recognized. This need is especially lacking in national settings such as the Norwegian one where legislative changes recently went into effect in 2003 with the expressed aim of encouraging greater commercialize research output. This new legislation, which revoked the 'teacher's privilege' clause once familiar to northern European countries, aims specifically to increase patenting of academic research results.

This paper addresses a fundamental difficulty of empirically testing such policy aims. In the Norwegian case, no record of patenting activity of academic researchers is available before 2003, partly due to the fact the patent rights were in the names of the researcher prior to that time. This paper presents results from a project designed to provide necessary empirical basis on which to analyze changes in extent and focus of academic patents while enabling future comparisons. The purpose is to describe the project's empirical approach and results, while also providing insight into the changes in Norwegian policy on this front and their context.

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