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**The Double-Edged Sword of Industry Collaboration:  
Evidence from Engineering Academics in the UK**

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# The Double-Edged Sword of Industry Collaboration: Evidence from Engineering Academics in the UK

*(version of July 2013)*

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## Abstract

This paper studies the impact of university-industry collaboration on academic research output. We report findings from a unique longitudinal dataset on all the researchers in all the engineering departments of 40 major universities in the UK for the last 20 years. We introduce a new measure of industry collaboration based on the fraction of research grants that include industry partners. Our results show that productivity increases with the intensity of industry collaboration, but only up to a certain point. Above a certain threshold, research productivity declines. Our results are robust to several econometric estimation methods, measures of research output, and for various subsamples of academics.

Keywords: Industry-science links, research collaboration, basic vs. applied research.

JEL codes: O3, L31, I23

## 1 Introduction

In a modern economy transforming scientific research into competitive advantages is essential. In the US, extensive collaboration between universities and industry, and the ensuing transfer of scientific knowledge, is viewed as one of the main contributors to the successful technological innovation and economic growth of the past three decades (Hall, 2004). At the same time, according to a European Commission report (1995), insufficient interaction between universities and firms in the EU has been one of the main factors for the EU's poor commercial and technological performance in high-tech sectors. Nowadays, increasing the levels of university-industry collaboration is a primary policy aim in most developed economies.<sup>1</sup>

The increased incentives (or, as some say, *pressures*) to collaborate with industry may have controversial side effects on the production of scientific research itself. Nelson (2004), among many others, argues that industry involvement might delay or suppress scientific publication and the dissemination of preliminary results, endangering the “intellectual commons” and the practice of “open science” (Dasgupta and David, 1994). Florida and Cohen (1999) argue that industry collaboration might come at the expense of basic research: growing ties with industry might be affecting the choice of research projects, “skewing” academic research from a basic toward an applied approach.

Academics that contribute to knowledge and technology transfer, on the other hand, maintain that industry collaboration complements their own academic research by securing funds for graduate students and lab equipment, and by providing them with ideas for their own research (Lee, 2000). Siegel et al. (2003), for example, report that “[s]ome scientists explicitly mentioned that these interactions improved the quantity and quality of their basic research.” Ideas sourced from industry may thus expand traditional research agendas (Rosenberg, 1998), benefitting the overall scientific performance of researchers.

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<sup>1</sup> In the 1980s, the US introduced a series of structural changes in the intellectual property regime accompanied by several incentive programs, designed specifically to promote collaboration between universities and industry (Lee, 2000; Mowery et al., 2001). Almost 30 years on, many elements of the US system of knowledge transfer have been emulated in many other parts of the world (see e.g., the UK Government's White Paper “The Future of Higher Education”, 2003).

These claims raise two questions for empirical research: (1) Does collaboration with industry increase or decrease researchers' productivity in terms of publication rates? (2) How does collaboration affect the various types of academic researchers and research outcomes? Previous research on these long-standing questions has mostly used patenting as a measure of industry collaboration (see Geuna and Nesta, 2006, and Baldini, 2008, for reviews). The evidence is somewhat mixed, ranging from the negative effects of patenting on research output reported in surveys of academic scientists (Blumenthal et al., 1996), to no effect in some of the econometric studies (Agrawal and Henderson, 2002) to even a positive relationship in some of the recent evidence (Azoulay et al., 2009; Breschi et al., 2008; Fabrizio and DiMinin, 2008; Stephan et al., 2007; van Looy et al., 2006).

This paper studies the effect of industry collaboration on academic research output using a new measure of industry collaboration based on the fraction of research grants which include industry partners. In contrast to patents, our measure is continuous in nature, and so we are able to identify an optimal level of collaboration. Collaborative links through joint research, consulting or training arrangements are not only more widespread (D'Este and Patel, 2007), but are also more important knowledge transfer channels than patents, licenses, and spin-offs, both according to the academics (Agrawal and Henderson, 2002) and the firms (Cohen et al., 2002). Data on research collaborations also provide a more continued assessment of the level of interaction with industry than measurements based on the number of patents. Possibly due to the lack of comparable data, the literature has paid little attention to these more collaborative forms of university-industry interaction.

Our measure is constructed exploiting comprehensive information from the main UK agency for funding in engineering, which distinguishes between collaborative and non-collaborative research grants based on the involvement of industry partners.<sup>2</sup> In addition to research funds, we compiled a unique, longitudinal dataset containing research output (publications), patents, and other individual characteristics for all academics employed in all the engineering departments of 40 major UK universities between 1986 and 2007. Since our dataset contains the majority of academic engineers in the UK, our results are not driven by the most successful researchers, a single university, or academic inventors

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<sup>2</sup> The presence of industry partners in public research grants might not be a perfect proxy for the level of interaction with industry, as there are also other channels of interaction. The inclusion of private firms as partners, however, is highly correlated with obtaining direct funding from the industry (Meissner, 2011).

alone. In fact, we can test whether the effects of industry collaboration differ across types of researchers.

In addition, by following each academic over time, we are able to identify the individual impact of industry collaboration on academic productivity, controlling for individual characteristics, potential reverse causality problems, and the dynamic nature of publications. Successful, productive researchers are better placed to attract more interest from industry. Industry collaboration can hence be the consequence, and not just the cause, of high numbers of publications. Furthermore, as is shown by previous papers (e.g. Arora et al., 1998; Agrawal and Henderson, 2002), the number of past, present and future publications are correlated. We address these two identification issues using instrumental variables and applying a dynamic panel data approach.

The paper is organized as follows. In section 2 we provide the conceptual framework. In section 3 we describe the dataset and introduce our empirical strategy. Section 4 presents our results. Section 5 discusses and concludes.

## 2 Conceptual framework

We base our empirical specification on the implicit assumption that an academic derives utility from her academic research output. Her objective consists of maximizing this utility. Indeed, publications in peer-reviewed journals provide substantial benefits in terms of career, salary, and internal and external recognition (Tuckman and Leahey, 1975).<sup>3</sup> While other factors like public engagement, grantsmanship, and patenting are becoming increasingly important, publications still present the major goal for academic researchers. For example, the UK's Research Excellence Framework (REF), which links departmental research to core government funding, still has publications as its most important factor.

As illustrated in Figure 1, the quantity and quality of publications of an academic depend *positively* on (i) the quality and quantity of her ideas, (ii) the amount of resources available,<sup>4</sup> (iii) the time she devotes to academic research, and *negatively* on (iv) the constraints on publication activity, due for example to dissemination restrictions or commercialization of

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<sup>3</sup> Academic researchers have also repeatedly been shown to possess a "taste" for science and derive satisfaction from scientific publication (Stephan, 1996, 2012; Stern, 2004).

<sup>4</sup> The availability of research funding is important for scientists in all academic disciplines, but especially in resource-intensive fields such as engineering (Stephan, 1996, 2012). Several recent studies have documented a positive impact of public grants on research performance (Jacob and Lefgren, 2011; Benavente et al., 2012).

scientific outcomes (Stephan, 1996, 2012). Of course, publication rates may also be affected by time-invariant individual characteristics, such as gender, field, and education, together with time-variant attributes, such as past publications and seniority.

In this section we explain how industry collaboration affects each of these four factors and hence academic research output. Comparing the marginal benefits and the marginal costs of collaborating, we then show that there is an optimal degree of collaboration, in terms of research output. Of course, industry collaboration can bring other benefits (Lawson, 2013a), including direct and indirect pecuniary gains (such as commercial applications), in addition to those considered here. Third, we discuss the effects on different types of academics and across different measures of academic output. Finally, we argue that collaboration can be the consequence and not only the cause of research output and stress the importance of addressing this potential reverse causality.

## **2.1 Effects of industry collaboration**

Collaboration with industry can boost academic research output for at least two reasons. First, collaboration can expand academics' research agendas and improve the pool of research ideas (Rosenberg, 1998). Survey evidence in Lee (2000) shows that collaboration helps academics gain new insights for their own research and test the practical application of their theories. Mansfield (1995) also shows that a substantial number of publicly sponsored research projects stem from industrial problems encountered in consulting.

Second, industry collaboration can expand the available financial resources. Indeed, industry has been identified as a major source of funding for academic research in recent years. According to survey evidence by Lee (2000), two of the most important reasons for academics to collaborate with industry are to secure funds for graduate students and lab equipment, and to supplement funds for their own academic research. Private financial support is especially important in light of the progressive decline in direct government funding during the last three decades (OECD, 2010).

Industry collaboration, however, can also be costly in terms of academic output. First, spending time interacting with industry partners reduces the time devoted to pure academic research activities. As suggested by Florida and Cohen (1999), academics' general duties, and their research duties in particular, might be compromised by an increase in time allocated to development, consulting or commercialization.

In addition, firms' commercial interests might impose constraints on the publication activity of collaborating academics. Czarnitzki et al. (2011) find that the percentage of researchers that report higher secrecy and publication delay is significantly larger for researchers sponsored by industry. Collaboration might even influence the selection of research topics and methodology (Florida and Cohen, 1999). As argued by Trajtenberg et al. (1997), industry research and development (R&D) is directed at commercial success, while university research generally focuses on solving fundamental scientific questions. Thus, research that addresses market demands, and appeals to industry partners, may not necessarily be close to the research frontier (Rosenberg and Nelson, 1994).

In sum, industry collaboration has benefits as well as costs for academic research. On the one hand, collaboration might help individual research by providing new ideas and additional funds. But on the other hand, less time and research constraints might lead to a reduction in academic research output. In the next section, we discuss the importance of each of these factors as the degree of collaboration changes.

## **2.2 The optimal degree of collaboration**

However small, some exposure to real business problems might help non-collaborating academics gain valuable insights into their area of research, and expand the pool of research ideas and resources available. Therefore, as illustrated in the left-hand side panel of Figure 2, the marginal benefits of collaboration are expected to be substantial at very low levels of collaboration. But, as the level of collaboration increases, we expect the marginal benefits of collaboration to decrease. Indeed, a small increase in collaboration activity for an academic heavily involved with industry is less valuable than for someone collaborating little.

On the other hand, the marginal costs of collaboration, especially those related to the time lost to commercial application, are expected to be low for low levels of collaboration. But, as the extent of collaboration increases, the marginal costs of collaboration should increase. At the limit, an academic spending most of her time interacting with industry does not have time to do any basic research at all. As a result, the marginal costs for high levels of collaboration are expected to be higher than the marginal benefits, as exemplified in the left-hand side panel of Figure 2.

Summing up, we expect the marginal benefits to decrease from a high level, and the marginal costs to increase from a low level, as the level of collaboration increases. As a result,



as shown in the right-hand side panel of Figure 2, we predict an inverted U-shaped relationship between industry collaboration and academic research output. Thus, the optimal level of collaboration, denoted as  $x^*$  in Figure 2, is *interior*, i.e. lies inside the interval. We expect academics involved in collaborative research projects with industry to publish more than their non-collaborating peers. But, we also expect academic output to be lower for those that become heavily involved.

The existing results on patents provide indirect evidence of the positive effect of collaboration for low levels of involvement. Academic patenting can be viewed as industry collaboration requiring low levels of interaction with firms (Agrawal and Henderson, 2002) and are likely to be on the increasing part of the curve in Figure 2. Recent evidence indeed finds a positive relationship between patenting and publications (Azoulay et al., 2009; Breschi et al., 2008; Fabrizio and DiMinin, 2008; Stephan et al., 2007; van Looy et al., 2005).

Previous research that investigates the effects of forms of collaboration that require substantial interaction, as for example in academic start-ups, provides evidence for the negative effects of high levels of collaboration. Toole and Czarnitzki (2010) show that US academics that receive funding to start or join for-profit firms are more productive than their peers, but that they produce fewer publications after receiving the grant. Goldfarb (2008) tracks a sample of 221 university researchers funded by the NASA and concludes that researchers repeatedly funded by the NASA experienced a reduction in academic output. In this case, the effect is likely to have been that associated to the decreasing part of the curve.

### **2.3 Differences across types of academics**

We expect some academics to be more affected than others by the positive and negative effects of collaboration. For instance, regular collaborators, i.e., those that show high levels of collaboration throughout their career, should be more affected than occasional collaborators. Occasional collaborators might not be heavily invested, and benefit or suffer less from collaboration, than those that regularly collaborate and write papers with the industry.

Similarly, we expect stronger effects for researchers in smaller, less prestigious universities which have higher levels of engagement with industry (D'Este and Patel, 2005). Lower levels of core funding force smaller institutions to rely relatively more on external grants (Perkmann et al., 2013). Small but positive levels of industry collaboration may then lead to relatively stronger positive effects, because collaboration may financially enable

research. But high levels of involvement might also be relatively worse, because industry would then account for the overall majority of funding and could impose severe time and publication activity constraints.

We also expect the trade-off associated with collaboration to be less pronounced for senior academics. Experience and network effects might make senior researchers less prone to the positive and negative effects of collaboration. Young researchers, instead, are at a crucial point of their careers, and should be more affected (Dasgupta and David, 1994).

#### **2.4 Differences across measures of research output, quality and type of research**

Industry collaboration might affect not only the quantity but also the quality and the type of publications. We expect the effects of collaboration to appear both for basic and applied research, but to be stronger for applied research. The availability of financial resources benefits, above all, applied research programs.<sup>5</sup> Research ideas arising from collaboration are also more likely to be turned into applied research papers. At the same time, publication constraints should affect, especially, applied publications. Survey studies on this topic, such as Blumenthal et al. (1986), Gulbrandsen and Smeby (2005) and Glenna et al. (2011) report that researchers with funding from industry claim to undertake significantly more applied research than researchers with no external funds or other types of funds.

The trade-off associated with industry collaboration may also be different for research quantity than for average research quality. A small level of collaboration might increase the number of publications, due to enhanced pools of ideas and resources, but not their average quality, which depends relatively more on intrinsic researcher characteristics, such as ability. Similarly, high levels of collaboration might reduce publication numbers due to time constraints or secrecy issues, though not necessarily affecting their average quality. Empirical evidence on this topic is mixed. While Hottenrott and Lawson (2013) find evidence that researchers with high levels of engagement, i.e., those that claim that industry is of high importance for gaining ideas for research, produce fewer publications but not publications of lower quality, Toole and Czarnitzki (2010) find a negative effect for both outcomes.

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<sup>5</sup> Financial rewards, however, might also have a positive impact on the production of basic research because basic and applied research efforts are complementary (Thursby et al., 2007) or because they induce a selection of riskier and more basic research programmes (Banal-Estañol and Macho-Stadler, 2010).

## 2.5 The collaboration decision

Engaging in collaborative activities is not an exogenous but a strategic decision of both academic researchers and firms. A substantial body of literature has studied, in addition to the benefits and costs of collaboration mentioned earlier, which types of academics tend to collaborate more often with industry (see Perkmann et al., 2013). Academic researchers' characteristics and attitudes, as well as local group norms play a role. Geographical proximity to the firms is also important, particularly for researchers in universities with a modestly rated faculty (Audretsch and Stephan, 1996; Mansfield and Lee, 1996).

Several papers have also identified the private sector's benefits and costs from collaborating with academia (Henderson et al., 1998; Salter and Martin, 2001; Cohen et al., 2002; Link and Scott, 2005, Laursen et al., 2011). Firms that choose to team up with academics gain access to specialized knowledge and equipment that benefit their own research and development. As a result, firms' decision to collaborate depends on their absorptive capacity (Veugelers and Cassiman, 2005), their size, and whether they adopt an "open" search strategy (Mohnen and Hoareau, 2003; Laursen and Salter, 2004).

Nonetheless, ultimately, forming a partnership is a strategic decision on both sides of the 'market' (Mindruta, 2012). Banal-Estanol et al. (2013) develop a two-sided matching market model of academic researchers and firms developing research projects. Participants on each side of the market are heterogeneous in terms of scientific ability (past publications, patents, or know-how) and project preferences (degree of "appliedness"). They show, theoretically and empirically, that successful academics and those involved in more applied research are more likely to collaborate with industry, whereas the least able and those mostly involved in basic research are more likely to develop non-collaborative projects. Also, they find that the matching, among those that collaborate, is positive assortative in terms of scientific ability, i.e. top academics collaborate with top firms and less-able academics collaborate with less-able firms; and also in terms of project preferences, i.e. academics involved in more applied research collaborate with more applied firms and academics mostly involved in basic research collaborate with more basic firms.

As a result, there is (positive) reverse causality between publications and industry collaboration. As shown in Figure 1, academics with a higher number of publications, and in particular applied research publications, possibly attract more and better collaborations. As Blumenthal et al. (1986) argue, "the most obvious explanation for this observed relation

[between collaboration and publications] is that companies selectively support talented and energetic faculty who were already highly productive.” Consequently, estimates of the impact of industry collaboration on academic research output could be biased upwards if endogeneity is not corrected for. We shall address this issue in our empirical strategy.

### **3 Data and Empirical Strategy**

In this section, we provide a detailed account of the creation of the dataset, as well as of the model specification and the identification strategy used.

#### **3.1 Data**

We created a unique longitudinal dataset containing individual characteristics, publications, research funds, and patents for all researchers employed in all the engineering departments of 40 major UK universities between 1986 and 2007 (see Table 1 for a list of universities). Through the British Library, we searched for university calendars and prospectuses, providing detailed staff information for all the universities with engineering departments in the UK.<sup>6</sup> Our final sample contains all the universities that had calendar information available, including all the universities that are members of the prestigious Russell Group, a coalition of 24 research-intensive UK universities, as well as 16 other comprehensive or technical universities.<sup>7</sup>

We retrieved the academics’ names and ranks for all the years 1986 through to 2007. We focused on academic staff carrying out both teaching and research and did not consider research officers or teaching assistants. We followed the researchers’ career paths between the different universities by matching names and subject areas and by checking the websites of researchers. Academics leave (and join or rejoin) our dataset at different stages in their career, when they move to (or from) abroad, industry, departments other than engineering (e.g., chemistry, physics, computer science), or universities that are not part of our dataset.

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<sup>6</sup> By Act of Parliament, the British Library is entitled to receive a free copy of every item published in the UK. These data were supplemented with information from the Internet Archive, a not-for-profit organization that maintains a free Internet library committed to offering access to digital collections. Their collection dates back to 1996 and enabled us to retrieve information from outdated Internet sites.

<sup>7</sup> We identified the initial set of engineering departments from the 1996 and 2001 Research Assessment Exercises (RAEs). We did not find information for eight institutions which are similar to the 16 non-Russell group universities in our sample. We did not consider any of the 39 post-92 universities either, as these were not full research institutions for all the years considered in this analysis. We also excluded the Open University and Cranfield University which, as distance and postgraduate institutions, respectively, have a very different structure.

They represent the basis for our data collection and enable us to retrieve information on publications, research funds, and patents.

Our final sample contains information on 3,991 individuals. The final sample excludes all inactive researchers (those with neither publications nor funds during the entire sample period) and researchers who were present for less than six consecutive years so that all of our (stock) variables could be created. We describe below our sources and measures of research output (our dependent variable), industry collaboration (our main independent variable), as well as funding, patents, and other individual characterizing variables. We provide summary statistics of these variables in the first panel of Table 2.

**Research output.** Data on publications were obtained from the ISI Science Citation Index (SCI). The number of publications in peer-reviewed journals is not the only measure but is the best recorded and the most accepted measure for research output as they are essential for gaining scientific reputation and for career advancements (Dasgupta and David, 1994). We collected information on all the articles published by researchers in our database while they were employed at one of the institutions in our sample. Most entries in the SCI database include detailed address data that allowed us to identify institutional affiliations and unequivocally assign articles to individual researchers.<sup>8</sup>

As a main measure of research output for each researcher in each year, we use the normal count of publications ( $count_{it}$ ), i.e. the number of publications in  $t$  on which researcher  $i$  is named as an author. Publication counts, however, might be misleading for articles with a large number of authors and may not reflect a researcher's effective productivity. Therefore, we also use the co-author-weighted count of publications ( $co-author\ weighted\ count_{it}$ ), which we obtain by weighting publications by the inverse of the publication's number of co-authors.

To investigate the effects on the quality of publications, we take into account the impact factor attributed to the publishing journals. The SCI Journal Impact Factor (JIF) is a measure of impact based on the number of citations received by articles published in the journal in the first three years of publication. Though not a perfect measure of quality, the JIF represents the importance attributed to a particular article by peer review. As the JIF of a

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<sup>8</sup> Publications without address data had to be ignored. However, we expect this missing information to be random and to not affect the data systematically.

journal changes over time and journals are constantly added to the SCI, we collected JIFs for all years between 1986 and 2007. We measure the average quality of publications of an individual  $i$  in a year  $t$  as the average JIF of her publications (*average impact factor<sub>it</sub>*). Publications in journals without a JIF were given a weight of zero.

As an indicator for the type of research, we use the Patent board (formerly CHI) classification (version 2005), developed by Narin et al. (1976) and updated by Kimberley Hamilton for the National Science Foundation (NSF). Based on cross-citation matrices between journals, it characterizes the general research orientation of journals, distinguishing between (1) applied technology, (2) engineering and technological science, (3) applied and targeted basic research, and (4) basic scientific research. Godin (1996) and van Looy et al. (2006) reinterpreted the categories as (1) applied technology, (2) basic technology, (3) applied science, and (4) basic science; and grouped the first two as “technology” and the last two as “science”. We use the normal count of publications in each of these two categories and denote them “applied” (*applied count<sub>it</sub>*) and “basic” (*basic count<sub>it</sub>*), respectively. Due to the applied character of engineering sciences, 74% of all publications are applied.

***Industry collaboration.*** Our measure of industry collaboration is based on grants awarded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), the main UK government agency for research in engineering and the physical sciences, and by far the largest provider of funding for research in engineering (more than 50% of overall third-party funding). The EPSRC encourages (but does not require) academic researchers to find private partners for their projects. As defined by the EPSRC, “Collaborative Research Grants are grants led by academic researchers, but involve other partners”. Partners generally contribute either cash or ‘in-kind’ services to the full economic cost of the research.<sup>9</sup>

We obtained information on all the grants awarded since 1986. For each grant, we collected the start year; duration; total amount of funding; names of principal investigator (PI) and co-investigators; grant receiving institution; and names of partner organizations, if any. We use the presence of private partners to construct our measure of industry

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<sup>9</sup> The EPSRC does not favor specific types of academic research output. Grants are awarded based on peer-review and monitored through end-of-award reports. There are, however, no specific measures for evaluating the success of the knowledge exchanges between science and industry.

collaboration (*fraction of funding with industry*<sub>*it*</sub>), which quantifies the fraction of collaborative EPSRC funds of an individual *i* in the five previous years (i.e. between *t-4* and *t*).

To be precise, the variable *fraction of funding with industry* was constructed as follows. We divided the total monetary income of each grant between the PI and her co-investigator(s). We took into account the participation of all investigators but positively discriminated PIs by assigning them half the grant value and splitting the remaining 50% among the co-investigators. PIs were assigned a major part as they are expected to lead the project. We additionally spread the grant value over the award period.<sup>10</sup> This was done in order to account for the on-going benefits and costs of the project and to mitigate the effect of focusing all the funds at the start of the project. Finally, for each year and for each researcher we computed the fraction of “collaborative” funds in the previous five years, i.e. those that included one or more industry partners, over all EPSRC funds received in the same period. We use a five-year window to reflect the profile of an academic in terms of her past stream of funding.

**Funding.** As discussed in the *conceptual framework* section, the availability of funds is an important factor for research output. We therefore created an indicator variable (*had some funding*<sub>*it*</sub>) that takes value 1 if academic *i* received any EPSRC funding (collaborative or not) in the five previous years and 0 otherwise. We used the indicator instead of the funding level because the latter is discipline-specific (some disciplines require more funding than others). As for industry collaboration, we used a five-year window to reflect the academic’s profile.

**Patents.** In the *conceptual framework*, we argued that the commercialization of research results might impose constraints on publication activity. Our analysis therefore should control for patent activity. By including patents, we also separate the effect of patenting from the effect of collaborating with industry, as defined above. Prior research has considered patenting itself as being an indicator of a researcher’s involvement with industry. As a result, the benefits and costs of collaboration might also appear through the patent channel.

We obtained patent data from the European Patent Office (EPO) database. We collected those patents that identify the aforementioned researchers as inventors and were filed while

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<sup>10</sup> If the grant lasted two years, we split it equally across those two years. If it lasted three or more years, the first and the last years (which are assumed to not represent full calendar years) received half the share of an intermediate year.

they were employed at one of the 40 institutions. We not only consider patents filed by the universities themselves, but also those assigned to third parties, e.g., industry or government agents (as shown by Lawson, 2013b, 52% of academic patents in the UK are not owned by the university). The filing date of a patent was recorded as representing the closest date to invention. Since the filing process can take several years, we were only able to include patents published by 2007, hence filed before 2005.<sup>11</sup> The EPO only covers a subsample of patents filed with the UK Intellectual Property Office (UKIPO). Nevertheless, the patents that are taken to the EPO are those with a higher economic potential and/or quality (Maurseth and Verspagen, 2002) and have been used in the past to analyze academic patenting in Europe (see Lissoni et al., 2008).

To measure the impact of patenting on the timing of publications, we use a dummy variable indicating whether the academic  $i$  has filed any patent in the same year ( $patent_{it}$ ), or in the two years preceding the publication ( $patent_{it-1}$  and  $patent_{it-2}$ ). Researchers in Europe, unlike the US, cannot benefit from a “grace period” and hence have to withhold any publication related to the patent until the patent application is filed. We therefore expect a lag of up to two years between invention and publication in a journal.

***Individual characteristics.*** Research output might be linked to the researcher’s personal attributes such as sex, age, education, and academic rank. *Academic rank<sub>it</sub>* is the only time-variant observable characteristic in our dataset. Thus, we incorporate information on the evolution of researchers’ academic status from lecturer to senior lecturer, reader, and professor into our analysis. Lecturer corresponds to an assistant professor in the US, whereas senior lecturer and reader would be equivalent to associate professor.

We also include, as an additional time-variant characteristic of an academic at a given point in time, her past publications. Indeed, as argued by Stephan (1996), there is a “cumulative advantage” in science that results in a dynamic relationship between past and present publication output.

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<sup>11</sup> Just like previous studies (see e.g., Fabrizio and DiMinin, 2008), data construction requires a manual search in the inventor database to identify the entries that were truly the same inventor and to exclude others with similar or identical names. This was done by comparing the address, title, and technology class for all patents potentially attributable to each inventor. The EPO database is problematic in that many inventions have multiple entries. It was therefore necessary to compare priority numbers to ensure that each invention is only included once in our data.



**Interaction variables.** As discussed in Section 2.3, the effect of industry collaboration on research output might differ across categories of academics. We therefore created five indicator variables which we use as interaction variables. We differentiated between academics that collaborate below and above the median intensity of collaboration, defined using (i) the lifetime share of publications with industry co-authors and (ii) the lifetime share of collaborative grants. Researchers with zero publications and zero grants were excluded. We also differentiated between (iii) those that had received above or below the median amount of funding during the previous five years; (iv) those that belonged to the selected Russell group of universities from those that did not; and (v) those at an earlier stage of their careers from the most senior researchers (professors). Researchers were able to change groups when they changed universities or were promoted. Panels 2 to 6 in Table 2 present the descriptive statistics of the two main variables of interest for these subsamples.

### 3.2 Econometric specification

Following our theoretical prediction, we estimate a model where research output is influenced non-linearly by the degree of collaboration with industry. The model includes as explanatory variables, not only the fraction of funding with industry and its quadratic term, but also past research output, having had any type of funding, the patent indicator variables, and other individual characteristics. Accordingly, we formulate our empirical model as:

$$y_{it} = \sum_{j=1}^2 \alpha_j y_{i(t-j)} + \beta_1 hf_{it-1} + \beta_2 fin_{it-1} + \beta_3 fin_{it-1}^2 + \sum_{k=0}^2 \gamma_k p_{i(t-k)} + \delta x_{it-1} + \mu_i + v_{it},$$

where  $y_{it}$  stands for academic  $i$ 's research output at time  $t$  (either *count<sub>it</sub>*, *co-author weighted count<sub>it</sub>*, *average impact factor<sub>it</sub>*, *applied count<sub>it</sub>*, or *basic count<sub>it</sub>*);  $hf_{it-1}$  is the indicator variable *had some funding<sub>it-1</sub>*;  $fin_{it-1}$  is the *fraction of funding with industry<sub>it-1</sub>*;  $p_{it}$  is the *patent<sub>it</sub>* indicator variable; and,  $x_{it-1}$  is a vector of other time-variant individual characteristics including *academic rank<sub>it-1</sub>* and year. All the independent variables except the patents are lagged because of the publication lead time. The error term contains two sources of error: the academic  $i$ 's fixed effect term  $\mu_i$ , and a disturbance term  $v_{it}$ . Since the distributions are highly skewed, we take logarithms of both the research output and industry collaboration variables. As these figures contain zero values, we add the unit before we take logarithms.

As is well known, the presence of time-invariant individual factors in the error term  $\mu_i$  produces correlation among the individual errors across different periods of time, making

Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) inefficient and yielding incorrect standard errors. Thus, we estimate our model using Generalized Least Squares (GLS). And, because these individual-specific effects  $\mu_i$  (e.g. ability or IQ) may be correlated with some of the explanatory variables (i.e., industry collaboration or academic rank), we choose a GLS with fixed effects (FE) estimator as our benchmark.

This model, though, cannot correct the autocorrelation created by the endogeneity of past research output. Thus, we compare the results of our benchmark regression, which does not include past research output, with those obtained using a dynamic Generalized Method of Moments (GMM) panel data model, which allows for the inclusion of lagged dependent variables as explanatory variables. In particular, we use the Arellano-Bond GMM estimator (Arellano and Bond, 1991; Blundell and Bond, 1998). This estimator transforms the model into first differences and thus eliminates the individual effects – and, thus, the cause of the autocorrelation across time periods. Thus, lagged dependent terms become valid instruments, which, along with lagged independent and exogenous variables, allow for the computation of asymptotically efficient estimates of the coefficients of interest.

### **3.3 Instrumental variables and identification strategy**

As explained in the theoretical discussion, industry collaboration may not only be the cause of research output but also its consequence, creating reverse causality issues. Similarly, the *had some funding* indicator variable may be endogenous because the most able academics are also more likely to receive funding. Thus, in order to obtain consistent estimates of the coefficients of interest, we need to use instrumental variables.

For the GLS models, we instrument the *fraction of funding with industry* variable using the economic activity of the area and the overall share of industry funding of the department. Economic activity of the area is approximated by the yearly number of manufacturing firms, as listed in the COMPUSTAT database, in the own and adjacent postcodes of the university where the academic works. The share of funding from industry received by the whole department is obtained from the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) data, which provide information on the total amount of research funds received by each department in the UK, decomposed by category (public, private and other funding) for the years 1993 through to 2007. Both measures are good instruments in the sense that regional economic activity and overall industry involvement of the department should not affect individual research output but should have an impact on the individual's opportunity to collaborate with firms. We also

instrument the *had some funding* variable using the aggregate amount of funding received by the department, based on the same RAE data. Given that some of our instruments were only available for 1993 onwards, the number of observations is reduced in the regressions with instruments. We test the validity of our instruments following the two-step model approach described in Wooldridge (2002: 531–532, 2003: 483).

We also use these variables as instruments in the Arellano-Bond GMM (GMM-AB) models. The identification of our GMM models is warranted as they satisfy both the Autocorrelation and the Sargan tests. The autocorrelation test of the Arellano-Bond estimator rules out that the residuals' dynamic structure is a source of autocorrelation and is thus an ignored cause of bias of the estimates. The satisfaction of the Sargan test warrants that the *depth* of the endogenous and exogenous variables' lags taken is enough to ensure that they are valid instruments and do not cause endogeneity issues in the transformed first differences models. In our case, the required depth of the lags is three periods. Even if our models satisfy the required tests, they use three and deeper lags of the dependent and independent variables as instruments, whereas the funding history goes back five years. To make sure that this is not a hidden cause of autocorrelation, and as a robustness check, we also estimate our model using a funding stock variable based on only two years of funding, as opposed to five.

## 4 Empirical Results

In this section we present our estimates of the impact of industry collaboration on research output. We first introduce our main results and then perform robustness checks. Finally, we analyze whether the impact of collaboration differs across types of researchers or measures of research output.

### 4.1 Main Results

The first four columns in Table 3 report the basic estimates of research output, measured as the normal *count* of publications, using GLS with fixed effects (columns 1, 2 and 3) and GMM estimators (column 4). Column 1 displays the estimates of the non-instrumented GLS with fixed effects (GLS FE). Column 2 shows the estimates of our benchmark model, the GLS with instrumental variables and fixed effects (GLS FE IV). Column 3 adds *one and two-year*

*lagged counts* of publications as explanatory variables (GLS FE IV lags).<sup>12</sup> Column 4 estimates the same specification using the Arellano-Bond GMM model, with lagged endogenous and exogenous variables and year dummies as instruments (GMM-AB).

At the bottom of the table, we include *goodness of fit* statistics. For each GLS specification, we report the  $R^2$  and the F-statistic associated to the joint significance of all regressors. The null of joint non-significance is rejected in all the models. For the GMM models, we report (i) the Wald  $\chi^2$  tests, which reject the joint non-significance of the regressors; (ii) the Sargan/Hansen tests, which are insignificant, suggesting that the models do not suffer from over-identification, and (iii) the Arellano-Bond tests, which do not reject the null that there is an absence of third (or higher) order correlation of the disturbance terms of our specifications, which is required for the consistency of these estimates. We report robust standard errors.

In the following paragraphs we present the main results grouped in themes for clarity.

***Baseline number of publications.*** The antilog of the estimate of the constant term, minus the unit, can be considered the “baseline” productivity prediction, i.e., the expected number of publications for an academic at the lowest rank (lecturer) who does not have any funding or patents. For the GLS IV FE benchmark in column two, the baseline number of publications associated to the estimate of the constant term is 0.60. According to the GMM-AB estimator in column four, once we incorporate the average effect of lagged publications, the baseline number of publications is higher (1.20). The GMM-AB estimates, however, are very sensitive to past publications (the coefficients for each of the two previous years are 0.820 and 0.042, respectively).

***The effect of (non-collaborative) funding.*** Consistent with the *conceptual framework*, we find that financial resources enhance research output. According to the benchmark estimates, the incremental effect of having (non-collaborative) funding when compared to not having any funding at all is 0.35 publications. This is the difference between the baseline number of publications when the academic *had some funding*, i.e. the antilog of  $(0.471+0.199)$  minus one, and the bare baseline publications, i.e. the antilog of 0.471 minus one. For the GMM-AB

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<sup>12</sup> Although the GLS IV estimator does not correct for the autocorrelation created by the endogeneity of lagged publications, we include this specification to compare the resulting coefficients with those obtained using the GMM-AB estimator.

specifications the incremental effect is 0.14. This is lower because GMM-AB estimates attribute a large part of the variation in current publications to variation in past publications.

***The effect of industry collaboration.*** For the benchmark in column 2, the linear coefficient of the *fraction of funding with industry* variable ( $\beta_2$  in the equation in Section 3.2) is positive and significant (0.925) and the coefficient of the quadratic term ( $\beta_3$  in the same equation) is negative and significant (-1.710). These results indicate that the effect of industry collaboration on the number of publications has an inverted U-shape. The *fraction of funding with industry* that would result in the maximum number of publications is 0.31. This is the antilog (minus one) of the fraction  $x$  satisfying the first order condition of the number of publications' maximization problem, i.e.,  $x^* = \beta_2 / [-2 * (\beta_3)^2]$ . Thus, in the range of 0% to 31%, increasing the fraction of collaborative funding results in more publications, but beyond that threshold more collaborative funding decreases the number of publications.

For all specifications, the linear coefficient is positive and significant and the quadratic term is negative and significant. Thus, independent of the estimation method chosen, the effect of industry collaboration on the number of publications remains an inverted U-shape. Similarly, the optimal collaborative fractions in all the specifications range from 0.3 to 0.4, except for the non-instrumented GLS FE specification (0.56).

Thus, the non-instrumented GLS FE estimates, which are not corrected for the reverse causality of publications on funding, result in an optimal collaboration level that is almost twice the optimal level in the benchmark case. The coefficients associated with industry collaboration in the non-instrumented specification are partly absorbing the (reverse) positive effect of publications on collaborative funding, and are thus overestimating the positive effect of collaborating with the industry.

***The effect of having filed patents.*** In accordance with recent literature, having filed patents in the current year ( $t$ ) has a positive significant effect on research output both for the GLS IV FE and the GMM-AB models. The associated effect is calculated as the antilog (minus one) of the coefficient of the indicator variable and ranges from 0.04 to 0.06 extra publications. Having filed patents in each of the previous two years ( $t-1$  and  $t-2$ ) is positive and significant, increasing current publications by about 0.04 in each of them for the GLS FE IV models. These coefficients are positive but not significant in the GMM-AB model.

***The effect of academic rank.*** Being a senior lecturer, a reader or a professor as opposed to a lecturer has little effect according to our estimates, except for the non-instrumented model. Correcting for the reverse causality of industry collaboration and funding removes the effect of academic rank on research output.

***The effect of lagged publications.*** In columns 3 and 4, we include past publications as explanatory variables. The coefficient associated with the previous year's publications is positive and significant, both in the GMM-AB specification (0.820) and in the GLS FE IV with lags (0.031). The effect of the number of publications two years prior is positive but smaller. Because we have taken logarithms of both the dependent variable and its lagged terms, we can interpret these coefficients as elasticities. Thus, increasing the number of publications in the previous year by 100% (i.e. doubling them) would increase the following year's expected number of publications by almost one percentage point according to the GMM-AB specification and by 0.3 percentage points according to the GLS FE IV with lags estimator.

As in earlier papers, our estimates suggest that there is persistence in publications. But, most importantly, accounting and correcting for the effect of past publications on current output using GMM-AB, does not result in a qualitative change of the results obtained with the GLS IV FE estimators in terms of an inverted U-shaped response of publications to the intensity of collaboration with industry.

***Summary.*** Figure 3 shows the aggregated impact of industry collaboration on publications. Using the estimates of each of the four models, we plot the predicted number of publications against the levels of collaborating funding for a lecturer with no patents. The levels of collaborative funding range from 0% to 100%, i.e., from all funding involving no industry partners (non-collaborative) to all funding including industry partners. We also plot the predicted number of publications for a researcher that has not received any funding for the benchmark GLS FE IV specification (the predicted number is similar for the other models).

As can be observed, according to the benchmark GLS FE IV specification, the predicted number of publications for a researcher with no funding at all (0.60) is increased by 0.35 publications in the presence of non-collaborative funding (i.e. 0.95 publications, the intercept of the inverted U-shaped curve). Increasing the intensity of collaboration has a positive effect,

but beyond a certain threshold it is negative. For very high levels of industry collaboration (above 70%) the predicted number of publications is lower than for non-collaborative funding, but it is always better than for no funding at all.

Overall our estimates provide strong evidence to support the hypothesis that industry collaboration does non-linearly affect the number of publications. The effect is positive for low intensities of collaboration, but it turns negative after a certain threshold, in all the different specifications. The inverted U-shaped curves reach their maxima at an intensity of industry collaboration of about 0.3 for the two GLS FE IV models, at about 0.4 for the GMM-AB models, and at 0.56 for the non-instrumented GLS FE.

## 4.2 Robustness checks

***Two-year based funding stock.*** The GLS FE IV and GMM-AB estimates in columns five and six in Table 3 use a variation of the measure of industry collaboration. Here, the variables *had some funding* and *fraction of funding with industry* include the stream of funds received in the last *two years only* (as opposed to the last five). Although this choice reflects less accurately the funding profile of the academic, it deals better with potential autocorrelation issues. Indeed, all the GMM-AB models use three and deeper lags of the dependent and independent variables as instruments whereas the funding history in the main results is five years long. Additionally, basing our measure on a shorter window allows younger and more mobile researchers to enter the sample. This specification enables us to assess the impact of using the five-year window-based funding stock on the benchmark estimates.

All coefficients of interest have the same sign and similar magnitude as in the main five-year stock regressions. The optimal fraction of collaborative funding in the GLS FE IV is slightly lower than that of the benchmark regression (0.17 as opposed to 0.31). This may be related to the fact that funded projects usually last longer than two years. Thus, the positive, long-term effects of collaboration with industry are not well captured and the implied optimal collaborative fraction is smaller. Instead, the model attributes a very large part of the variation in current publications to the variable *had some funding*. Surprisingly, being a senior lecturer increases publications by 0.05 in the GLS FE IV model but decreases them by 0.02 in the GMM-AB specification.

**Balanced sample.** The specifications in columns seven and eight in Table 3 are estimated using only those researchers that can be observed for the full last 15 years of our sample, so that we are able to build the 5-year funding and industry collaboration variables and estimate a balanced 10 year panel. This specification enables us to explore whether the full-sample estimates have been significantly affected by attrition.

Again, all coefficients of interest have the same sign and similar magnitude as in the full-sample regressions, which we interpret as being an indication that attrition has not caused important biases in the main estimates. The optimal levels of collaboration are also very similar. Interestingly, being a professor has a significant positive impact (0.07 publications) according to the GMM-AB estimator. This may be related to the fact that the fraction of professors in the 10 years panel is larger than in the full sample.

#### 4.3. Differences across types of academics

In Table 4, we reproduce the results of our benchmark model for various types of academics by interacting our variables of interest with indicator variables for particular groups of academics. The *main effect* in each specification reflects the effect of a variable for the group of reference. The effect for the *interacted* group is obtained by adding the interaction term to the main effect, if it is significantly different from zero. To summarize, the results in Table 4 show that the trade-off of industry collaboration exists for all the categories of academic researchers. The coefficient for the linear term is positive and that of the quadratic term is negative in all cases, both for the reference and non-reference groups. The magnitudes of the effects, however, differ, as we explain below.

The first column distinguishes between academics who have an above (main effect) and below (adding the *interaction effect*) the median percentage of *publications co-authored with industry*. Those above the median in terms of lifetime industry co-authored publications have a larger linear term and a larger negative quadratic term for industry collaboration, indicating more responsiveness. Nevertheless, their associated optimal fraction of collaboration is 0.29, very similar to the 0.31 of the benchmark. The low collaborators have a *flatter* relationship between the fraction of funding with industry and publications, and a slightly lower optimal level of collaboration (0.26). Thus, occasional collaborators also experience gains and losses in terms of publications but the effects are weaker.



The second column distinguishes between academics with an above (*main effect*) and below (adding the *interaction term*) the median percentage of *average lifetime funding with industry*. High collaborators in terms of funding history with industry have slightly stronger effects than the high collaborators in terms of joint publications. But low collaborators in funding history do not appear to be significantly different from their high collaboration counterparts. The negative coefficients, although insignificant, would imply a slightly flatter and lower curve, and the impact of collaboration would be slightly worse.

The third column separates academics with high and low levels of funding, i.e., academics above (main effect) and below (adding the interaction effect) the median in the *amount of funding received in the past 5 years*. Results suggest that those with a high level of funding have a slightly more positive response to industry collaboration, and a slightly higher curve. But, according to the interaction term estimates, academics with funding below the median are not significantly different from those above the median.

In column 4, we distinguish between academics working in (main effect) and not working in (adding the interaction effect) a Russell group university. We find that those in the Russell group are not significantly different to those in other, lesser known and less-funded institutions. The negative coefficients of the interaction terms, although insignificant, suggests that the impact of collaboration for researchers in a non-Russell group university is slightly worse than for their counterparts.

Lastly, column 5 distinguishes between academics that are of a lower academic rank (main effect) as opposed to professors (adding the interaction effect). According to our estimates, professors do not experience a significantly different impact than academics in lower academic ranks. The negative sign of these coefficients, however, are suggestive of professors having a flatter relationship between industry collaboration and publications.

#### **4.4. Differences across measures of research output, quality, and types of research**

In Table 5, we reproduce the results of our benchmark model using different measures of research output. The first column shows the impact of industry collaboration when publications are weighted by the inverse of the number of co-authors. The baseline number of the co-author weighted publication count is 0.33. The coefficients of the linear and quadratic terms of the *fraction of funding with industry* variable are significant, and jointly imply an optimal industry collaboration intensity of 0.2, slightly lower than that of the

benchmark of 0.3 in Table 3. The effect of the *had some funding* variable is insignificant, suggesting that funding may increase the number of publications simply by increasing the size of teams. This is further suggested by the negative effect of the professor dummy, as these may primarily benefit from larger labs through co-authorship. The effect of patents is positive and significant just like in the benchmark regression in Table 3.

Column 2 reports the results of the effect of industry collaboration on the average quality of publications. While the existence of funding is positive and significant, the effects of the two industry collaboration terms and the patent variables are insignificant. This indicates that while industry funding and patenting positively affect publication quantity they do not affect average publication quality, which may depend more on intrinsic research ability.

Columns 3 and 4 decompose the effects by type of research. We report the estimates of the impact of collaboration on the count of applied (“technology”) and basic (“science”) publications. The baseline number of applied and basic articles is, respectively, 0.33 and 0.11. Thus, the expected number of basic publications is lower than that for applied publications. The existence of funding positively impacts the number of basic publications, but the fraction of collaborative funding does not. According to the (insignificant) coefficients, the optimal fraction of funding in collaboration with the industry would be just 0.03. For applied research, the linear and quadratic coefficients associated to the industry collaboration variables are instead significant, and jointly imply an optimal intensity of about 0.3, similar to the benchmark regression in Table 3.

Our results in the benchmark specification in column 2 of Table 3 show that having filed a patent in the current and in each of the two previous years increase significantly the overall number of publications. Columns 3 and 4 in Table 5 show that, when separating the effect for applied and basic publications, all the coefficients of having filed patents retain the positive sign. There are interesting differences, however, in terms of magnitude and significance. We find a significant positive contemporaneous effect of patenting on basic publications and a delayed significant positive effect on applied publications. Indeed, while commercialization may produce a variety of complementary basic research outputs, it may be delaying the publication of more applied, technically oriented, research papers.

## 5 Discussion and Conclusion

This paper uses the individual time-varying fraction of research funding that involves industry partners to identify the effects of industry collaboration on research output. Many authors argue that research collaborations, contract research, and consultancy are far more important channels of knowledge transfer than patents, licenses, and spin-offs. Those channels are, however, more difficult to measure empirically and even more difficult to compare across institutions and time, which may explain why the literature has paid little attention to these collaborative forms of university-industry interactions. Here, we use homogeneous information on grants awarded by the EPSRC, by far the most important funding source of research in engineering sciences in the UK.

Our results for this panel indicate that the number of publications increases with the presence of non-collaborative funding and increases even further with the intensity of industry collaboration, but only up to a certain point. For levels of collaboration above 30%–40%, research output declines. These results have proven robust to variations in the econometric estimation method, for various subsamples of academics, and for various measures of academic research output. Nevertheless, some remarks are in order. Basic research output and average publication quality are significantly positively affected by (non-collaborative) funding but are not significantly affected by industry collaboration.

The general finding of an inverted U-shaped effect of industry collaboration on research output might explain the positive effects previously found by studies that investigate forms of industry collaboration that require little to no direct interaction (e.g., patenting in the life sciences in Azoulay et al., 2009) and, at the same time, the negative effects of those forms of collaboration that require more involvement (e.g., being employed full-time in a small business, in Toole and Czarnitzki, 2010). Our results also bolster empirical evidence from previous surveys and cross-sectional studies on the effects of collaborative research funding on academic output by establishing a causal relationship. Even after controlling for endogeneity, we find supportive evidence for the positive impact of the existence of collaboration, as in Gulbrandsen and Smeby (2005). The negative effect of the intensity of collaboration for high levels of collaboration is also consistent with other survey results (Blumenthal et al., 1996) and cross-section empirical evidence (Hottenrott and Lawson, 2013; Hottenrott and Thorwarth, 2011; Manjarres-Henriquez et al., 2009).

We use panel data estimation methods in which funding and industry collaboration are instrumented for, as successful researchers are better placed to attract interest from industry. Thus, industry collaboration can be the consequence, and not only the cause, of high number of publications. We also provide dynamic panel estimates that use lagged publications as explanatory variables. The positive effect of non-collaborative funding and the inverted U-shaped effect of industry collaboration on research output are validated when we instrument for both industry collaboration and lagged publications. Moreover, we show that the impact of excessive diversion from academic activity through industry collaboration can be seriously underestimated when inadequate estimation methods are used. Without controlling for reverse causality, our estimated optimal level of collaboration is almost twice the estimated level when this source of endogeneity is corrected for.

Just as in earlier literature, we find a positive effect of patenting on publications. The contemporaneous effect of patent disclosure is similar to the one of past patents, giving no evidence of a “secrecy” effect. However, when we consider the nature of research we find a stronger contemporaneous effect of patents on publications in basic science journals. This may explain the positive correlation found in papers that analyze the publication and patenting activity of researchers in more basic sciences, e.g., life-science (Azoulay et al., 2009; Breschi et al., 2008). As argued by Murray (2002) and Thursby et al. (2007) and confirmed by Thursby and Thursby (2011), ideas gained through basic research may also result in patents. We do however find a delayed positive effect of patenting for publications in applied journals, suggesting that they may suffer from “secrecy”. Perkmann and Walsh (2009) also argue that more applied projects are more likely to be affected by secrecy, because of immediate commercial viability.

Our findings suggest that encouraging universities to collaborate moderately with industry is a beneficial policy. A moderate degree of industry collaboration not only facilitates the transfer of knowledge and accelerates the exploitation of new inventions, but it also increases academic research output. A moderate degree of collaboration increases the number of applied publications but it does not significantly affect the number of basic ones.

We use a large uniquely created longitudinal dataset containing the academic career of the majority of academic engineers in the UK. We concentrate on the engineering sector because it has traditionally been associated with applied research and industry collaboration and it contributes substantially to industrial R&D (Cohen et al., 2002). But, our results are

similar for very different types of researchers within our sample: for those in large, research-intensive universities and in smaller ones, as well as for junior and senior, and for researchers receiving below and above median levels of funding. This suggests that our results might also be true in other contexts.

Ours can only be a first step in the analysis of the effects of the various channels of knowledge transfer. With more comprehensive and homogeneous information, we could make comparisons between the effects of research collaborations, contract research, consultancy, and patents. In our sample, research collaborations have a stronger impact than patents. It might also be interesting to tackle interactions between different knowledge transfer channels. We know very little about whether collaboration channels complement or substitute each other. Consultancy, for example, might have a positive effect on research output if and only if it is complemented by collaboration in research. Of course, this is only a conjecture and a challenging task for future research.

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## Figures

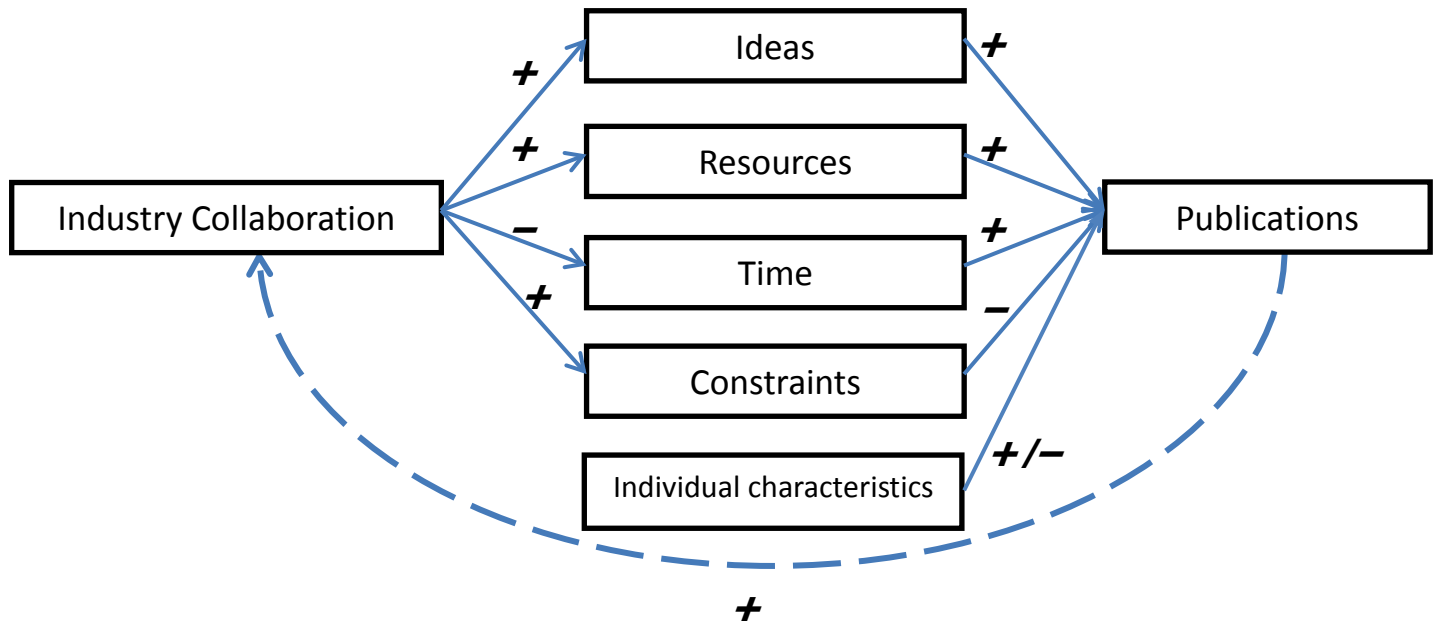


Figure 1. Factors affected by industry collaboration and affecting research output.

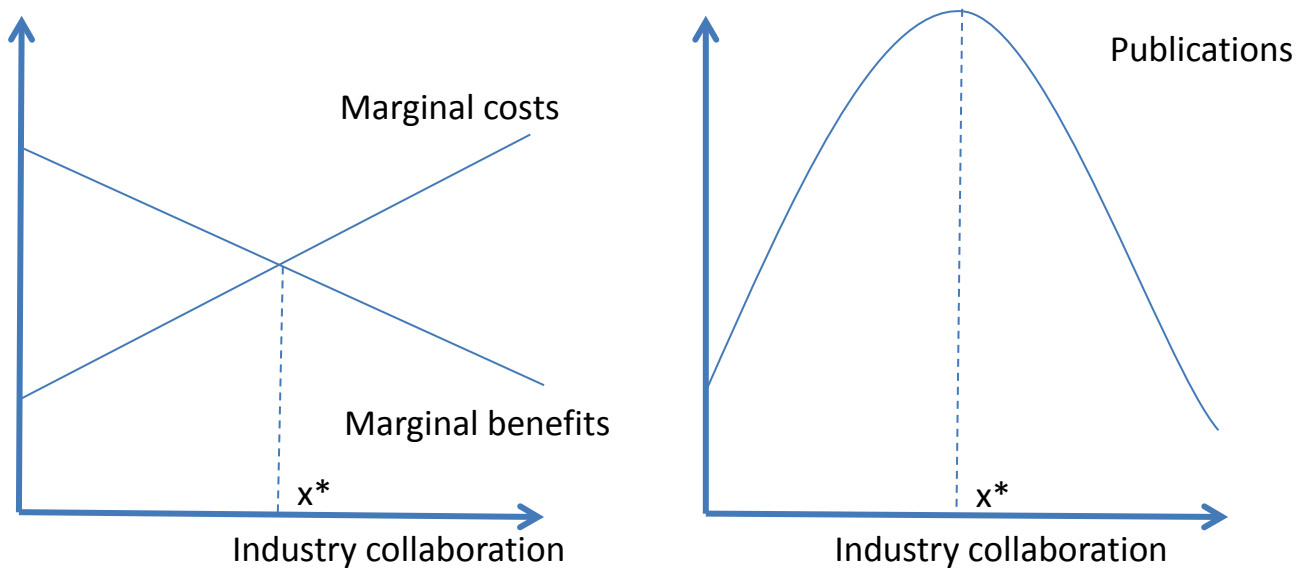


Figure 2. Expected effects of industry collaboration on academic research output.

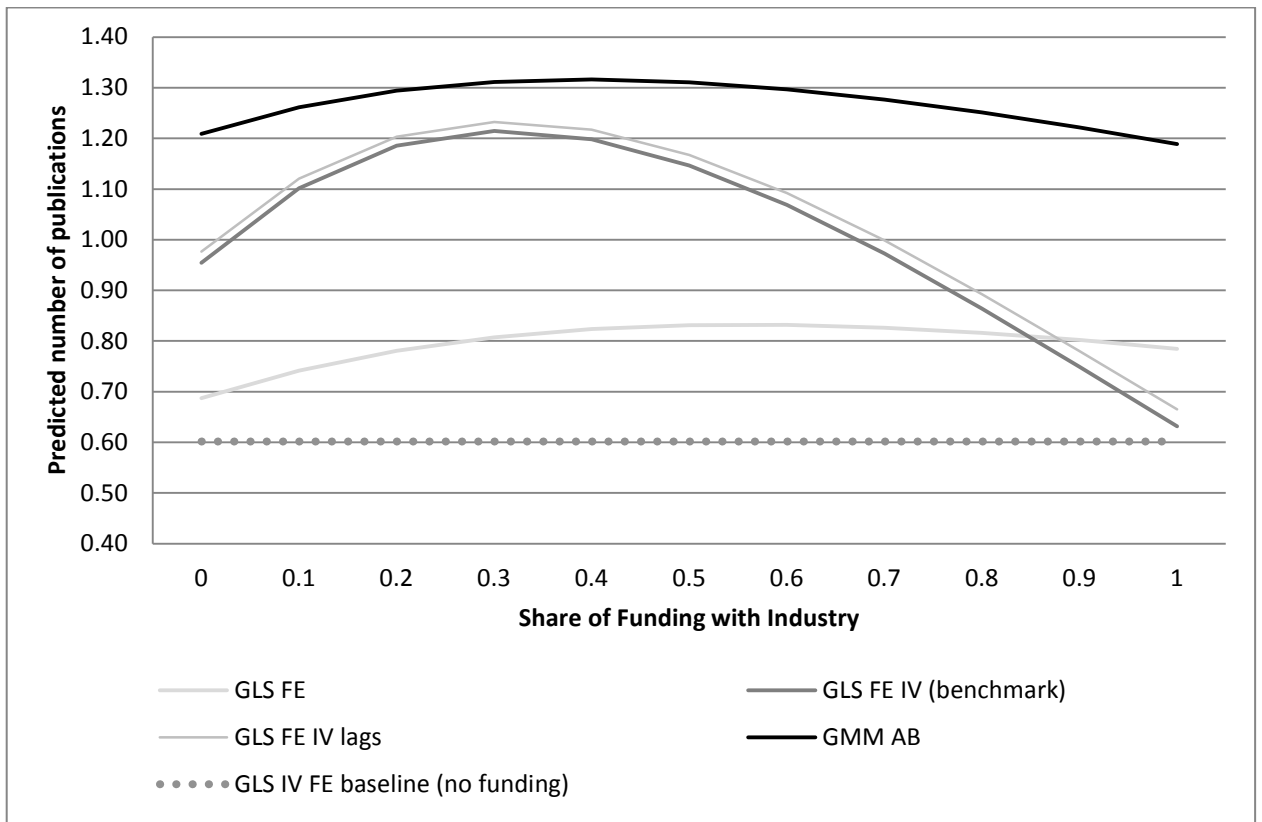


Figure 3: Estimated publications by fraction of funding with industry

**Table 1: List of Universities**

Russell Group Universities	Number of ID*	Number of Observations	Other Universities	Number of ID	Number of Observations
Birmingham, University of	193	1523	Aberdeen, University of	45	358
Bristol University	82	581	Aston University	62	573
Cambridge, University of	191	1541	Bangor University	30	179
Cardiff, University of	99	802	Brunel University	117	810
Durham, University of	43	308	City University, London	62	556
Edinburgh, University of	92	724	Dundee, University of	49	400
Exeter, University of	40	317	Essex, University of	29	295
Glasgow, University of	108	1033	Hull, University of	37	338
Imperial College London	268	2109	Heriot Watt University	141	1119
Kings College London	48	330	Lancaster, University of	26	230
Leeds, University of	165	1212	Leicester, University of	37	245
Liverpool, University of	102	888	Loughborough, University of	236	1847
Manchester, University of <sup>1</sup>	322	2614	Reading, University of	47	395
Newcastle, University of	143	1188	Salford, University of	99	788
Nottingham, University of	167	1317	Strathclyde, University of	179	1563
Oxford, University of	97	843	Swansea University	94	856
Queen Mary London	82	575			
Queens University, Belfast	101	920			
Sheffield, University of	176	1293			
Southampton, University of	136	1060			
University College London	127	1045			
Warwick, University of	64	621			
York, University of	27	205			

\* Researchers can belong to more than one university during their career. Therefore the numbers of IDs do not add up to 3991, the number of unique individuals in our sample.

**Table 2: Descriptive Statistics**

Full Sample (33601 obs)	mean	sd	min	max	Correlation with		
					count <sub>it</sub>	had some funding <sub>it</sub>	fraction of funding with industry <sub>it</sub>
<b>Dependent Variables</b>							
count <sub>it</sub>	1.64	2.68	0	41	1	0.228***	0.125***
co-author weighted count <sub>it</sub>	0.59	0.93	0	12.26	0.916***	0.208***	0.106***
average impact factor <sub>it</sub>	0.44	0.72	0	27.07	0.436***	0.167***	0.100***
applied count <sub>it</sub>	0.9	1.62	0	24	0.778***	0.206***	0.122***
basic count <sub>it</sub>	0.46	1.52	0	26	0.712***	0.125***	0.0216***
<b>Explanatory Variables</b>							
had some funding <sub>it</sub>	0.67	0.47	0	1	0.228***	1	0.405***
fraction of funding with industry <sub>it</sub>	0.2	0.35	0	1	0.125***	0.405***	1
patent <sub>it</sub>	0.03	0.18	0	1	0.124***	0.0794***	0.0577***
lecturer <sub>it</sub>	0.34	0.48	0	1	-0.183***	-0.194***	-0.0998***
senior lecturer <sub>it</sub>	0.28	0.45	0	1	-0.104***	-0.0511***	-0.0204***
reader <sub>it</sub>	0.1	0.3	0	1	0.0853***	0.0453***	0.0276***
professor <sub>it</sub>	0.27	0.45	0	1	0.242***	0.228***	0.109***

Collaborators <sup>†</sup> (27667 obs)	Low Collaborators (13484 obs)				High Collaborators (14183 obs)				t-test difference
Dependent Variables	mean	sd	min	max	mean	sd	Min	max	
count <sub>it</sub>	1.43	2.41	0	37	2.22	3.13	0	41	***
<b>Explanatory Variables</b>									
had some funding <sub>it</sub>	0.59	0.49	0	1	0.73	0.44	0	1	***
fraction of funding with industry <sub>it</sub>	0.19	0.34	0	1	0.3	0.38	0	1	***

Collaborators <sup>‡</sup> (23645 obs)	Low Collaborators (11188 obs)				High Collaborators (12457 obs)				t-test difference
Dependent Variables	mean	sd	min	max	mean	sd	min	max	
count <sub>it</sub>	1.71	2.62	0	37	2.26	3.2	0	41	***
<b>Explanatory Variables</b>									
had some funding <sub>it</sub>	0.78	0.42	0	1	0.82	0.39	0	1	***
fraction of funding with industry <sub>it</sub>	0.07	0.19	0	1	0.5	0.41	0	1	***

Funding <sup>‡‡</sup> (28508 obs)	Low Funding (12853 obs)				High Funding (15655 obs)				t-test difference
Dependent Variables	mean	sd	min	max	mean	sd	Min	max	
count <sub>it</sub>	0.97	1.73	0	23	2.45	3.3	0	41	***
<b>Explanatory Variables</b>									
had some funding <sub>it</sub>	0.38	0.49	0	1	0.89	0.31	0	1	***
fraction of funding with industry <sub>it</sub>	0.11	0.31	0	0	0.36	0.38	0	1	***

Russell Group (28508 obs)	Russell group (18374 obs)				Non-Russell Group (8408 obs)				t-test difference
Dependent Variables	mean	sd	min	max	mean	sd	min	max	
count <sub>it</sub>	2.02	3.02	0	41	1.25	2.16	0	33	***
<b>Explanatory Variables</b>									
had some funding <sub>it</sub>	0.68	0.47	0	1	0.62	0.48	0	1	***
fraction of funding with industry <sub>it</sub>	0.24	0.37	0	1	0.24	0.38	0	1	***

Professor (28508 obs)	Professor (7955 obs)				Not Professor (20553 obs)				t-test difference
Dependent Variables	mean	sd	min	max	mean	sd	Min	max	
count <sub>it</sub>	2.86	3.66	0	41	1.36	2.25	0	32	***
<b>Explanatory Variables</b>									
had some funding <sub>it</sub>	0.84	0.37	0	1	0.59	0.49	0	1	***
fraction of funding with industry <sub>it</sub>	0.3	0.36	0	1	0.22	0.37	0	1	***

\* p < 0.10, \*\* p < 0.05, \*\*\* p < 0.01.

† High (low) collaborators are those who have an average lifetime collaborative publications with the industry above (below) the median. Academics with zero publications excluded.

‡ High (low) collaborators are those who have an average lifetime collaborative funding with the industry above (below) the median. Academics with zero funding excluded.

‡‡ High (low) funding receivers are those who have received funding in the previous 5 years above (below) the median.

**Table 3: Impact of Industry Collaboration on Research Output<sup>‡</sup>**

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Model	GLS FE	GLS FE IV	GLS FE IV	GMM AB <sup>†</sup>	GLS FE IV	GMM AB <sup>†</sup>	GLS FE IV	GMM AB <sup>†</sup>
Dependent Variable	count <sub>it</sub>	count <sub>it</sub>	count <sub>it</sub>	count <sub>it</sub>	count <sub>it</sub>	count <sub>it</sub>	count <sub>it</sub>	count <sub>it</sub>
Sample	Full	Full	Full	Full	Full	Full	10 yr BP <sup>‡‡</sup>	10 yr BP <sup>‡‡</sup>
Collaboration stock	5 yrs	5 yrs	5 yrs	5 yrs	2 yrs	2 yrs	5 yrs	5 yrs
<b>Funding and Collaboration:</b>								
had some funding <sub>it-1</sub>	0.044*** (0.013)	0.199** (0.083)	0.203** (0.083)	0.066* (0.035)	0.580*** (0.142)	0.085** (0.038)	0.243** (0.104)	0.102*** (0.036)
fraction of funding with industry <sub>it-1</sub>	0.373*** (0.099)	0.925*** (0.352)	0.897*** (0.344)	0.286* (0.167)	0.992*** (0.331)	0.589* (0.336)	0.994** (0.438)	0.403** (0.178)
fraction of funding with industry <sup>2</sup> <sub>it-1</sub>	-0.421*** (0.145)	-1.710*** (0.655)	-1.651*** (0.638)	-0.432* (0.249)	-3.228*** (0.661)	-0.824* (0.485)	-2.154*** (0.811)	-0.616** (0.267)
<b>Patent Filed:</b>								
patent <sub>it</sub>	0.026 (0.019)	0.040* (0.021)	0.040* (0.021)	0.059** (0.024)	0.050** (0.020)	0.056** (0.022)	0.043* (0.026)	0.075*** (0.027)
patent <sub>it-1</sub>	0.014 (0.019)	0.037* (0.020)	0.035* (0.020)	0.014 (0.025)	0.042** (0.020)	0.016 (0.023)	0.013 (0.024)	0.012 (0.030)
patent <sub>it-2</sub>	0.037* (0.021)	0.039* (0.021)	0.038* (0.021)	0.017 (0.026)	0.043** (0.021)	0.009 (0.024)	0.043* (0.026)	0.028 (0.031)
<b>Academic Rank:</b>								
senior lecturer <sub>it-1</sub>	0.048*** (0.014)	0.025 (0.018)	0.022 (0.018)	-0.013 (0.009)	0.053*** (0.016)	-0.027*** (0.008)	-0.016 (0.023)	-0.011 (0.012)
reader <sub>it-1</sub>	0.093*** (0.022)	-0.002 (0.027)	-0.007 (0.027)	0.001 (0.020)	0.014 (0.025)	-0.021 (0.019)	-0.033 (0.033)	0.017 (0.027)
professor <sub>it-1</sub>	0.109*** (0.025)	-0.003 (0.032)	-0.009 (0.032)	0.017 (0.019)	-0.015 (0.031)	-0.003 (0.017)	-0.034 (0.039)	0.065** (0.026)
<b>Lagged Publications:</b>								
count <sub>it-1</sub>			0.031*** (0.008)	0.820*** (0.046)		0.809*** (0.046)		0.718*** (0.051)
count <sub>it-2</sub>			0.003 (0.007)	0.042*** (0.015)		0.046*** (0.015)		0.059*** (0.018)
<b>Constant</b>	0.479*** (0.014)	0.471*** (0.039)	0.453*** (0.040)	0.087*** (0.022)	0.236*** (0.071)	0.119*** (0.019)	0.536*** (0.097)	0.118*** (0.026)
Number of observations	33601	28508	28508	26782	31837	31834	16250	15738
Number of ID	3991	3975	3975	3724	4436	4436	1625	1625
Number of instruments	0	3	3	164	3	173	3	156
R <sup>2</sup> (overall)	0.247	0.087	0.369		0.131		0.197	
F	19.072***	8.961***	8.709***		13.119***		6.986***	
Wald chi2				12597***		12697***		6875***
AR(1) test z (p-value)				0		0		0
AR(2) test z (p-value)				0		0		0
AR(3) test z (p-value)				0.7205		0.8382		0.9636
Sargan test p-value				0.1699		0.1381		0.1265

Robust standard errors in parentheses; \*  $p < 0.10$ , \*\*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.01$ .

‡ The dependent variable, the lagged dependent variables and the fraction of funding with industry are in logarithms.

† Endogenous variables are *fraction of funding with industry* and lagged *count*. Lagged endogeneous and exogeneous variables and year dummies are used as instruments.

‡‡ Balanced panel of 10 years.

**Table 4: Impact of Industry Collaboration by Groups of Academics<sup>‡</sup>**

	1	2	3	4	5
Model	GLS FE IV	GLS FE IV	GLS FE IV	GLS FE IV	GLS FE IV
Dependent Variable	count <sub>it</sub>	count <sub>it</sub>	count <sub>it</sub>	count <sub>it</sub>	count <sub>it</sub>
Main Effect (reference group)	high collab	high collab	high funding	Russell group	non professor
Interaction term	low collab <sup>†</sup>	low collab <sup>‡</sup>	low funding <sup>‡‡</sup>	non Russell group	professor
<b>Funding and Collaboration:</b>					
had some funding <sub>it-1</sub>	0.236** (0.105)	0.142 (0.107)	0.161* (0.087)	0.175** (-0.088)	0.161* (0.087)
interaction term *had some funding <sub>it-1</sub>	-0.090 (0.129)	0.047 (0.139)	0.004 (0.048)	-0.1 (-0.087)	0.259 (0.190)
fraction of funding with industry <sub>it-1</sub>	1.364*** (0.414)	1.580*** (0.430)	1.270*** (0.392)	1.051*** (-0.389)	0.862** (0.382)
interaction term *fraction of funding with industry <sub>it-1</sub>	-0.846** (0.359)	-0.509 (0.389)	-0.073 (0.291)	-0.038 (-0.344)	-0.812 (0.612)
fraction of funding with industry <sup>2</sup> <sub>it-1</sub>	-2.687*** (0.814)	-2.723*** (0.845)	-2.177*** (0.743)	-1.386* (-0.74)	-1.677** (0.810)
interaction term*fraction of funding with industry <sup>2</sup> <sub>it-1</sub>	1.810** (0.837)	-0.120 (0.902)	-0.685 (0.700)	-0.676 (-0.809)	1.511 (1.212)
<b>Patent Filed:</b>					
patent <sub>it</sub>	0.040* (0.021)	0.029 (0.021)	0.039* (0.021)	0.040* (-0.021)	0.040* (0.021)
patent <sub>it-1</sub>	0.036* (0.021)	0.031 (0.021)	0.034* (0.020)	0.037* (-0.02)	0.037* (0.020)
patent <sub>it-2</sub>	0.040* (0.021)	0.031 (0.022)	0.036* (0.021)	0.038* (-0.021)	0.039* (0.021)
<b>Academic Rank:</b>					
senior lecturer <sub>it-1</sub>	0.025 (0.019)	0.017 (0.020)	0.022 (0.019)	0.027 (-0.019)	0.030 (0.019)
reader <sub>it-1</sub>	-0.004 (0.027)	-0.015 (0.029)	-0.012 (0.027)	-0.002 (-0.027)	0.008 (0.028)
professor <sub>it-1</sub>	-0.006 (0.033)	-0.028 (0.034)	-0.024 (0.033)	-0.004 (-0.032)	-0.091 (0.144)
<b>Constant</b>	0.490*** (0.040)	0.573*** (0.086)	0.518*** (0.042)	0.451*** (-0.079)	0.502*** (0.082)
Number of observations	27667	23645	28508	28508	28508
Number of ID	3833	3150	3975	3975	3975
R <sup>2</sup> (overall)	0.105	0.053	0.180	0.101	0.089
F	7.963***	8.209***	9.637***	8.669***	7.923***

Robust standard errors in parentheses, \*  $p < 0.10$ , \*\*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.01$ .

‡ The dependent variable and the *fraction of funding with industry* are in logarithms.

† Based on being below the median in the percentage of publications co-authored with the industry. Academics with zero publications excluded.

‡ Based on being below the median in the percentage of average lifetime funding with the industry. Academics with zero funding excluded.

‡‡ Based on being below the median in the amount of funding received in the past 5 years.



**Table 5: Impact of Industry Collaboration for other Measures of Research Output<sup>‡</sup>**

	1	2	3	4
Model	GLS FE IV	GLS FE IV	GLS FE IV	GLS FE IV
Dependent Variable	co-author weighted count <sub>it</sub>	average impact factor <sub>it</sub>	applied count <sub>it</sub>	basic count <sub>it</sub>
<b>Funding and Collaboration:</b>				
had some funding <sub>it-1</sub>	0.079 (0.051)	0.114*** (0.044)	0.100 (0.074)	0.184*** (0.054)
fraction of funding with industry <sub>it-1</sub>	0.720*** (0.214)	-0.173 (0.187)	0.952*** (0.307)	0.028 (0.209)
fraction of funding with industry <sup>2</sup> <sub>it-1</sub>	-1.535*** (0.395)	0.522 (0.340)	-1.785*** (0.575)	-0.509 (0.399)
<b>Patent Filed:</b>				
patent <sub>it</sub>	0.029** (0.013)	0.013 (0.010)	0.030 (0.020)	0.034** (0.015)
patent <sub>it-1</sub>	0.028** (0.013)	0.015 (0.011)	0.014 (0.020)	0.012 (0.014)
patent <sub>it-2</sub>	0.026* (0.013)	0.012 (0.011)	0.045** (0.020)	0.021 (0.014)
<b>Academic Rank:</b>				
senior lecturer <sub>it-1</sub>	0.012 (0.011)	0.013 (0.010)	0.017 (0.016)	-0.004 (0.012)
reader <sub>it-1</sub>	-0.003 (0.017)	0.027* (0.015)	-0.000 (0.025)	-0.006 (0.018)
professor <sub>it-1</sub>	-0.034* (0.021)	0.045*** (0.017)	0.002 (0.030)	-0.010 (0.022)
<b>Constant</b>	0.282*** (0.024)	0.201*** (0.020)	0.283*** (0.036)	0.106*** (0.026)
Number of observations	28508	28508	28508	28508
Number of ID	3975	3975	3975	3975
R <sup>2</sup> (overall)	0.001	0.159	0.054	0.03
F	8.80***	20.54***	7.93***	2.12***

Robust standard errors in parentheses, \*  $p < 0.10$ , \*\*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.01$ .

‡ The dependent variable and the *fraction of funding with industry* are in logarithms.