

Universities in the fight against mafias

Research, teaching and training

Edited by Stefano D'Alfonso and Gaetano Manfredi

Federico II University Press



fedOA Press





Universities in the fight against mafias. Research, teaching and training, translation of the book, S. D'Alfonso e G. Manfredi (edited by), *L'università nella lotta alle mafie. La ricerca e la formazione*, Donzelli Publisher, 2021, Collection «Mafie e corruzione», directed by Stefano D'Alfonso and Rocco Sciarrone

This book has been published in partnership with



Scientific committee

Antonio Acconcia, Giuseppe Amarelli, Luciano Brancaccio, Paolo Canonico, Vincenzo Caputo, Carolina Castellano, Stefano Consiglio, Daniela De Leo, Ernesto De Nito, Serena Forlati, Gabriella Gribaudo, Gaetano Manfredi, Gianluigi Mangia, Vittorio Mete, Giuseppe Muti, Michelangelo Pascali, Ferdinando Pinto, Maura Ranieri, Attilio Scaglione, Pasquale Sabbatino, Giovanni Starace, Andrea Tomo, Alberto Vannucci, Anna Maria Zaccaria

This publication is part of the research project co-funded by the Parliamentary committee of inquiry into mafia-related and other criminal organisations, including foreign ones, and the University of Naples Federico II as an implementation step of the memorandum of understanding signed by the Committee and the CRUI.

As indicated in the forthcoming pages, this research was conducted in partnership with the CRUI, the anti-mafia parliamentary committee and the ministry of University and Research when this was led by ministry and Professor Gaetano Manfredi.

The person in charge of this research project is Professor Stefano D'Alfonso and the activity has been developed within the operations of the interdisciplinary research lab on mafias and corruption (Lirmac) of the Department of Social Sciences of the University of Naples Federico II in partnership with numerous professors of other Italian universities.

The book cover shows a section of the fresco of the Federico II University Board Room from the early 1900s. The artist is Gaetano D'Agostino. The subject depicted is the great historical ride of 1615, with the University's move from the convent of San Domenico Maggiore to the Palace of Studies. The city enters the Academy.

The photograph on the cover is by Professor Isabella Valente, published in the cultural heritage portal (porbec.it), in the Federico II section – Università dell'arte.

This English edition has been translated from the Italian by Daniele Lombardi and Alessio Mirarchi.

Universities in the fight against mafias : Research, teaching and training /
Edited by Stefano D'Alfonso and Gaetano Manfredi. – Napoli : FedOAPress,
2022. – 223 p. ; 24 cm.

Accesso alla versione elettronica: <http://www.fedoabooks.unina.it>

ISBN: 978-88-6887-145-1

DOI: 10.6093/978-88-6887-145-1

© 2022 FedOAPress - Federico II University Press

Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II
Centro di Ateneo per le Biblioteche “Roberto Pettorino”
Piazza Bellini 59-60
80138 Napoli, Italy
<http://www.fedoapress.unina.it/>
Published in Italy
Prima edizione: ottobre 2022

Gli E-Book di FedOAPress sono pubblicati con licenza
Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International

I. The role of Italian universities in the anti-mafia system

1. *The rationale of an investigation into the role of Italian universities on the subject of organised crime. Organisation of the work**

This research is the fulfilment of one of the objectives set out in a Memorandum of Understanding (see Annex I below) signed by the Conference of Italian University Rectors (CRUI) and the “Parliamentary committee of inquiry into mafia-related and other criminal organisations, including foreign ones “, established in the 17th legislature by Law no. 87 of 19 July 2013.

The aim of the memorandum was to enhance the role of universities as places of education in terms of knowledge and skills, but also as ideal social environments from which ethical and cultural principles must stem to protect the academy itself, the institutions and society. In order to have a knowledge base, the CRUI has undertaken to create, for the first time in Italy, a survey of university teaching and research on the subject of organised crime.

The interdisciplinary research laboratory on mafias and corruption (Lirmac) of the Department of Social Sciences of the University of Naples Federico II has supported the CRUI in the implementation of this activity, which is part of a wider scientific project initially co-funded by the Parliamentary Anti-Mafia Committee and the University of Naples Federico II and, subsequently, renewed by the same university. The project was also shared and co-funded by the Parliamentary Anti-Mafia Committee established in the 18th legislature by Law 99 of 7 August 2018 and by the Ministry of University and Research.

The first results of this research activity can be summarised as follows.

Firstly, a survey of teaching activities has been made, through specific questionnaires sent to all the member Universities of the CRUI, which provided ex-

* This paper has been written by Stefano D’Alfonso and Gaetano Manfredi.

haustive information on teaching and higher education activities. The results have been collected by the CRUI and can be also accessed via their website¹. The official presentation of the results took place during a hearing on 7 November 2017 at the Parliamentary Anti-Mafia Committee by the then president of the CRUI, Professor Gaetano Manfredi, and Professor Anna Maria Zaccaria, a member of Lirmac². In addition, the results were also reported in President Manfredi's contribution to the «Stati Generali Lotta alle Mafie» (Forum on the fight against Mafias) held on 23-24 November 2017.

More recently, this research project has been enriched by the participation of professors from many Italian universities who have committed their time to updating the review of teaching and completing that of research papers.

The second result has been the creation of a review of research papers, whose aim is to report the scientific activities of Italian universities.

The CRUI and Lirmac carried out a survey of publications in the field of mafias. The original element in the creation of the database can be mainly found in the data-collection methodology employed which entailed a limited commitment of time on the part of universities in terms of activities to perform and time to dedicate. The universities, in fact, followed guidelines provided by the CRUI and Lirmac to extract data directly from the Iris databases which collect the scientific products of their own researchers, thus avoiding time-consuming manual data-entry which would have represented a significant increase in the workload of administration or academic personnel. A total of sixty-four universities replied indicating research products relevant to the scope of the investigation while two do not possess products that comply with the request and two papers were entered by us through autonomous access to the Iris University system.

This project has two main useful outcomes.

Firstly, the creation of a database that can be accessed quickly and easily which allows, through a simple search by key word, to find professors and universities that have scientifically investigated, within the realm of their macro-sectors and corresponding individual academic disciplines, specific subjects that involve the phenomenon of organised crime. In this way, scholars, institutions, investigative and judicial organizations, journalists, activists and, more generally,

¹ www.cru.it.

² The stenographic record of the hearing can be downloaded at the link on the website of the Chamber of Deputies www.camera.it

I. The role of Italian universities in the anti-mafia system

citizens, will be able to conveniently identify and track the scientific effort made over the years.

This platform also makes it possible to overcome typical disciplinary barriers which, in fact, block the spread of existing scientific production and the identification of sector's experts and teams (such as those operating in workshops) that could be consulted for the purpose of in-depth analyses as in the case of law design, for instance.

The CRUI is entrusted with making the database available online on its website for consultation and investigations. The review will be progressively maintained up to date, especially through the contribution of the Interdisciplinary research laboratory on mafias and corruption of the University of Naples Federico II.

The second outcome to be achieved is the detailed representation, both from a quantitative and qualitative point of view, of the Italian scientific production in the field of organised crime. Twenty-nine of the most committed scholars from each macro-sector (Economics, Sociology, Law, History, Geography, Psychology) or from specific academic disciplines (usually open to analyses by experts of the field as is the case with Criminal Law, for instance) have given their contribution indicating, among other things: a) research topics investigated and b) those overlooked but worthy of attention, c) the rationale driving scientific commitment also with regards to the time distribution of scientific products such as monographies, journal articles, book contributions, d) the use of a foreign language.

The scientific reasoning is enriched by tables, graphs, and histograms.

The data collected also allow to highlight the presence of research groups in each university or across different institutions, partnerships and interdisciplinary approaches which are increasingly necessary in a subject with high social, economic and juridical impact, including at international level.

This work also includes a reflection, elaborated by some of the scholars working on topics relevant to us, that not only highlights the importance of the role played by the Italian Academia so far, but also puts forward new action plans. Early results have in fact shown the need to give more value to the university scientific production in terms of dissemination and sharing with the other Anti-mafia stakeholders both at institution and social level. This needs to be done not only in Italy but also abroad, which brings up the issue of the rare use of English in most academic sectors.

In addition, the research also provides significant elements to build new strategies putting the university community at the centre of an ethical and deonto-

logical pledge with a special focus on younger students, as citizens and members of the future ruling class of the country.

The series “Mafie e Corruzione”, created in 2018 with the publishing house Donzelli, has been chosen as editorial location. Its scientific committee is composed of scholars from different disciplines (e.g. Anthropology, Architecture, Law, Economics, Geography, Engineering, Literature, Forensic Medicine, Psychology, Political Science, Sociology, Statistics, History), thus trying to lay the foundations for the enhancement of an interdisciplinary approach to the subject of mafias.

In the first publication of the aforementioned series named *Mafie e libere professioni. Come riconoscere e contrastare l'area grigia, 2018*, by authors S. D'Alfonso, A. De Chiara and G. Manfredi, the first proposals were made on a scientific basis to deepen the role of the Italian university in the anti-mafia system, and these are discussed in this paper³. This commitment has found a specific place in an online course, freely accessible in the Mooc platform Federica Web Learning of the Federico II, targeted, in a perspective of soft-skills and lifelong learning, to university students of every degree course and to other recipients (e.g. professional associations, judges, law enforcement agencies)⁴.

This publication, in addition to the critical-descriptive objectives mentioned above, also has a dissemination objective. The reason for this choice is also of an institutional nature: for quite some time now the idea that mafias, as a systemic phenomenon, can only be tackled, in terms of prevention and contrast, with equal systematicity, has been gaining ground in the institutional and social forums, as well as in the judicial bodies (as noted in chapter 2 below). It is therefore necessary to formalise the role of training and research institutions and, in particular, of the university, also in symbolic and self-narrative terms, as well as in terms of substance.

³ The other works published by the research group are as follows. In the series “Mafie e Corruzione”: S. Consiglio, P. Canonico, E. De Nito, G. Mangia (with contributions by S. D'Alfonso, G. Melillo, R. Vona), *Organizzazioni criminali. Strategie e modelli di business nell'economia legale*, Donzelli, Rome, 2019; G. Starace, *Testimoni di violenza. La camorra e il degrado sociale nel racconto di dieci detenuti*, Donzelli, Rome 2020. This was followed by two other volumes published in two different series: S. D'Alfonso, *Potere di inchiesta parlamentare e sistema di protezione dei diritti*, published in the Collana Ricerche giuridiche, Editoriale scientifica, Naples 2020; C. Castellano, *Una questione di provincia. Criminalità e camorra tra età giolittiana e fascismo*, published in the Collana del Centro ReS Incorrutta, Editoriale scientifica, Naples 2020.

⁴ Available on the website federica.eu

I. The role of Italian universities in the anti-mafia system

This is the first time that some scholars – only a fraction of those engaged in research, teaching and the third mission – have undertaken the task of producing a report on the role of the academy, analysing the state of the art and trying to envisage new lines of action (discussed in the conclusions). In spite of the effort made, the discussion among the scholars involved in this contribution has already revealed aspects that could have been better developed: this awareness is accompanied, however, by a willingness to accept suggestions and ideas, with the hope of shortly bringing together academics who, in addition to being united by a passion for science, share a common civic passion and culture of legality.

2. *Position and role of Italian universities in the anti-mafia system**

The group of scholars who decided to engage in this work has attempted, for the first time, to deal with the theme of mafias by recalling in a unitary context all the different scientific disciplines that have produced contributions related to this theme. This analysis is based on a survey that has produced, as already mentioned, the “Review of university teaching and research on mafias”, a real picture of what has been done so far on this specific subject, developed in collaboration with university researchers, the Conference of Italian University Rectors and the Parliamentary committee of inquiry into mafia-related and other criminal organisations, including foreign ones.

Before illustrating the origin of this work – worth mentioning due to the connection between ideas generated at institutional level and their sediment in individual papers hereby presented by scholars from various disciplines – we deem it necessary to reflect upon the position of academic efforts within the context of what can be defined as the institutional and social anti-mafia system.

In particular, the decision of involving in this work some of the university researchers who are most committed to organised-crime topics, operating individually or in teams, can be explained, above all, by taking into account the following basic premise: in scientific, institutional and social contexts a firm belief has taken hold according to which preventing and fighting such a rooted phenomenon as the Mafia implies the urgent need for a systematization of prevention and

* This paper has been written by Stefano D’Alfonso.