

Case study: research management in geosciences

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Research activities significantly differ by areas. Analysis of interviews with principal investigators of big projects in geosciences will give insights on practical reason during the activities. The main focus of the analysis is cast on (1) roles of technicians and other research assistants; (2) effects of background change of higher education system on training of researchers and technicians. Findings include the observation that a weaker personnel system of technicians is inevitable. Technicians were strategically trained under some project investigators before 1980s; they were scouted at very young ages, mainly in night programs of high schools to become artisans of experimental equipments. Most technicians of the age has been retired by now, and replacement has not work well because of disappearance of such career paths.

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