

What are university satellite campuses for?

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Although the last three decades have seen a massive proliferation of university satellite campuses (SCs) around the world, there is limited statistical evidence of the contribution SCs really make in the regions they serve. By drawing on a novel panel dataset aggregated at urban level for the period 2000-2020, we present a long-term retrospective overview of the impact of SCs on Italian municipalities. Findings show that, especially between 2000 and 2010, SCs increased the overall number of graduates rather than subtracting graduates from parent universities. However, SCs alone have no real effect on the depopulation trends underway in most cities.