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She graduated in Political Sciences at the University of Pavia (1973) in the area of international economics. In the Eighties she has been visiting scholar at the Sussex European Research Centre, Sussex University (U.K.) and at the Faculty of Economics and Politics, University of Cambridge (U.K.). In 1984-89 she was consultant of the Italian Parliament on the restructuring of the steel industry and in 1994 Member of the Technical Committee of the Ministry of Industry for allocating aids to capacity cuts. In 2006-09 she was Member of the Scientific Committee as by Piedmont Regional Law n.4, 2006, *Regional system of research and innovation*.

Her current research interests include academic patenting, the dynamics of the semiconductor industry, the links between basic research and innovation, cognitive distance between organizations collaborating in research, the performance of science parks, universities-industry relationships, open innovation and global value chains.

She wrote 4 books (M.Balconi, 1977, *La strategia di espansione dei mercati: il caso dell'alluminio*, Il Mulino, Bologna; M.Balconi, 1991, *La siderurgia italiana 1945-90. Tra controllo pubblico e incentivi del mercato*, Il Mulino, Bologna; M.Balconi, 1995, *Riva 1954-94*, Casagrande Editore, Lugano; M.Balconi, A. Passannanti, 2006, *I parchi scientifici e tecnologici nel Nord Italia*, FrancoAngeli, Milano) and more than 30 journal articles/book chapters.

Main recent international publications:

M.Balconi, S. Breschi, F. Lissoni, 2004, "Networks of Inventors and the Role of Academia: An Exploration of Italian Patent Data" *Research Policy*, n.33, Issue 1, 127-45.

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