

Are Better Educated Migrants Returning?

Evidence From Multidimensional Education Data

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Outline

① Motivation

② Background

③ Data

④ Method

⑤ Results

What Is The Fuzz About?

- High-skilled immigrants beneficial:
 - Human resources for R&D
 - can these be used efficiently?
 - Enhance the knowledge base
 - Language/cultural barriers?
 - Ties with foreign institutions
 - Export
 - Enrollment in graduate education via knowledge-based industries
 - Emigration hampers development
 - Falling productivity for the stayers
 - ... but may boost investments in technology
 - Return migrants may boost ties, development

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Education and Migration: Theory

- Borjas & Bratsberg (1996)
 - Skilled workers leaving...
 - ...if return to skill higher abroad
 - re-immigrating...
 - ...return to work experience abroad high enough
 - students after education
 - temporary work (internship) abroad
 - Unskilled leaving...
 - ...if return to skill lower abroad (+ higher living standard)
 - re-immigrating...
 - ...return to work experience abroad high enough
 - earn money abroad, return, start business.

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East-West Context

- Brain drain for East (Kahanec et al, 2009, Olofsson & Malmberg, 2010)
- Brain gain for West
- ... or what?
- Temporary character (Castles & Miller, 2009; Dustmann, 2000; Dustmann & Weiss, 2007)
 - Room for gain for the East

Education and Migration: Literature

- Studying abroad an increasing phenomenon (Appave, 2010; Boyle et al 1998; Globerman & Shapiro, 2008)
- Students return home (Nekby, 2006; Bijwaard, 2010)
- Overeducation of immigrants (Hardy, 2010; Trevena, 2011)
- Return migrants even more skilled?
 - Nekby (2006), Jensen & Pedersen (2007)
 - King & Newbold (2008)
- Or maybe the way around?
 - DaVanzo & Morrison (1981, 1982)
 - Reyes (1997); Massey & Espinoza (1997); Curran & Rivero-Fuentes (2003)
 - Dustmann (1996, 2003)
- Number of studies with no relationship

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This Study

- Analyzes intention to return, depending on education
 - Several dimensions of education:
 - Obtained in home country
 - ... in Finland
 - Overeducation
 - Vocational track
 - Large number of migration intention related information
- We find:
 - Education not directly related to return
 - Has impact on duration dependence
 - socialization?

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Background

- No Estonian diaspora in Finland before 1990
- Large migration flows ever since
 - 2010: 26 000 Estonians
 - largest new minority in Finland

Survey of Estonian Emigrants in Finland

- 1000 observations
- Random sample from Finnish Population Register
- age ≥ 17
 - many childhood migrants
 - many have Finnish education
- Migration reasons
- Return intentions
- Identity
- Socialization
- Education
 - Education while migrating
 - Current education

- Use Logistic Regression
- Model the probability to “do you intend to return to Estonia”
 - “Yes” \Leftrightarrow “No”, “don’t know”

Yes	237
No	452
don't know	311

Education

Dependent variable: intention to return to Estonia

	1	2	3	5
<i>Education (comparison group: high school graduates)</i>				
< high school	0.011	0.026	0.035	0.049
	0.054	0.053	0.053	0.054
college	0.002	-0.002	-0.000	0.002
	0.033	0.033	0.033	0.033
vocational	0.053*	0.040	0.043	0.047*
	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.028
FI edu	-0.107***	0.027	0.025	0.144**
	0.031	0.037	0.037	0.068
overeducation	0.118***	0.090**	0.086**	0.082**
	0.038	0.038	0.038	0.038

▶ Controls

 Dependent variable: intention to return to Estonia

	1	2	3	5
<i>Age at arrival (comparison group 35-45)</i>				
arrival age -20		-0.130***	-0.120**	-0.029
		0.049	0.049	0.097
arrival age 55-		0.214**	0.215**	0.434***
		0.093	0.093	0.115
<i>Years since migration (comparison group 0-5 yrs)</i>				
5-10 yrs		-0.035	-0.025	0.157**
		0.035	0.035	0.076
10-15 yrs		-0.077*	-0.054	-0.035
		0.040	0.041	0.096
15- yrs		-0.069*	-0.046	0.139
		0.040	0.041	0.085

 ▶ Controls

Individual Characteristics

Dependent variable: intention to return to Estonia

	1	2	3	5
<i>Individual characteristics</i>				
not Estonian	-0.137***	-0.125***	-0.136***	-0.136***
	0.036	0.037	0.037	0.037
partner other	-0.114***	-0.109***	-0.110***	-0.110***
	0.031	0.031	0.031	0.031
notWorking	-0.082**	-0.075**	-0.055*	-0.055*
	0.033	0.033	0.033	0.033
<i>Migration reason (control group: other)</i>				
better income		0.135***	0.141***	0.141***
		0.051	0.052	0.052

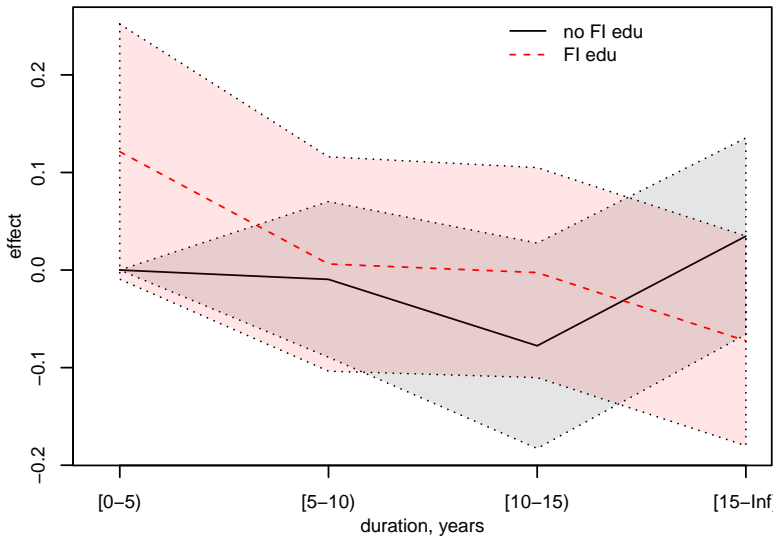
▸ Controls

Trend

Dependent variable: intention to return to Estonia				
	1	2	3	5
	<i>Trend differences</i>			
Fl edu × 5-10 yrs				-0.120 0.088
Fl edu × 10-15 yrs				-0.080 0.097
Fl edu × 15- yrs				-0.271*** 0.094
# obs	998	991	991	991
R ²	0.03015	0.1177	0.1262	0.154

▶ Controls

Trend



	1	2	3	5
indiv. characteristics		✓	✓	✓
migration reason			✓	✓
duration × studies in Finland				✓
age × studies in Finland				✓

Conclusions:

- Education not closely related to return
 - Overeducated \Rightarrow more likely to return
 - Finnish education \Rightarrow faster socialization
- “Guest workers”
 - Came for money
 - Leave fast
 - Because easy to commute?
- Negative duration dependence:
 - Finnish education
 - Guest workers
- “Welfare immigrants”
 - Not working \Rightarrow less likely to return
- Not ethnic Estonian \Rightarrow less likely to return
 - Not attached to EE?

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