Academic engagement patterns of native and foreign-born academics

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International orientation of academia

• Science is very international in scope: training, work, collaboration
• 15% to 30% of doctorate holders have experienced mobility abroad during the previous ten years (Auriol, 2010)
• 1 in 3 top-US professors receive education abroad (Yuret 2017)
• Increase in international collaboration and migration of academics (Wagner et al., 2017; van der Wende, 2015)
• Migration promotes knowledge spillovers and international network formation (Almeida and Kogut, 1999; Scellato et al. 2015)
• Diversity enhances research and team performance (Barjak and Robinson, 2008; Franzoni et al. 2014)
Benefits to:

- Science
- Institutions
- Regions
- Countries
UK Academic survey of external engagement

• >50% of UK papers with international coauthors (Witze, 2013);
• >30% of UK academic staff are non-UK national (HESA, 2017)

• 2015 survey of all academics in UK
• 18177 complete responses
• 64.6% UK born, 17.8% EU born and 17.6% Non-EU and Non-UK
• 41% women
Figure 1: Extent of Engagement Activities in the UK
Source: Hughes, Lawson et al. (2016)
Marginal effects

International Engagement Breadth

Baseline: UK born = 2.5

Domestic Engagement Breadth

Baseline: UK born = 4

Marginal effects Δ

Poisson Regression Results
Adapted from Lawson et al. 2019

- Foreign-born
- UK-born returnee
- Long-term settled in UK
- Recent arrival to UK
- Non English native
- Non-white foreign born
Boosting impact at home and abroad

• Migrant academics strengthen country’s global reach while at the same time deepening domestic ties between society and academia

• Long-term migration enhances domestic involvement without loss to international reach
Concentration

- Top migrant academics in few ‘hot spots’ (top institutions in selected regions/countries)

→ concentration of talent and resources (e.g., ERC in UK and NL); uneven migration flows and increasing divergence (also within EU)

Rates of incoming and outgoing mobility with respect to citizenship country

*Source: MORE2 Survey 2012 (Cañibano, C. et al. 2017)*
Gender gap?

- Women are less mobile than men (Cañibano, C. et al. 2017) and engage less with industry (Tartari & Salter 2015)

- **Inequalities**: Mobility could compound gender disparities in science

- **UK data findings**:
  - Fewer UK born women are returnees;
  - Larger share has PhD in the UK;
  - Women engage less with externals;
  - **BUT**: engage more with charitable sector → engagement gap goes both ways

Dr Jess Wade
Final observations

• What are we talking about when we talk of impact? – home or abroad? Industry or society?

• Can we create inclusive environments? – those that are marginal may avoid environment that is alienating; lack of networks

• Issue of role congruence – where do we expect someone to be an expert?