

Call for Papers**Special Issue: Citizens of Nowhere? Migration, Research, and Innovation**

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Background

Highly skilled workers play a central role in both today's knowledge economy and cross-country labour mobility. The number of international migrants with a tertiary degree has more than doubled from 1990 to 2010, with a percentage increase triple that of low-skill migrants. The number of countries from which highly skilled migrants are departing is also increasing, while the same cannot be said of destinations, where the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, and Australia take the lion's share.

Highly skilled international migration contributes to knowledge creation in destination countries, as well as to knowledge diffusion worldwide. This is especially true in consideration of the rising importance of short-term and circular migration, fuelled by several migrants' categories such as students, faculty at universities or executives of multinational enterprises.

STEM migrants (those with degrees or jobs in Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) are among the most mobile, and directly contribute to innovation in destination countries, and possibly to knowledge transfer to their countries of origin.

National policies towards these flows of talented people are mixed; with some countries adopting proactive measures to encourage skilled migration and others giving only limited attention to this issue. These policies depend as much, if not more, on a general attitude towards migration than on a clear appreciation of the role played by highly skilled migrants, in general, and STEM workers, in particular, to innovation.

A clear illustration for destination countries is offered by Brexit, which was partly driven by concerns about immigration, despite the increasing reliance of the UK science and innovation system on the inflow of European STEM migrants. Other countries have put in place restrictive rules on immigration, which penalise specific countries or different demographic groups. Albeit not targeted at STEM migrants, these policies could have a significant effect on the nature of the global flows of ideas and people that make them up.

From the perspective of the countries of origin, migration has for long been associated with negative economic outcomes due to the loss of skills and human capital ("brain drain"). And yet some evidence is now available on positive feedbacks in the form of knowledge spillovers, returnee entrepreneurship and mediation of capital inflows (FDI, MNCs). Another "brain gain" channel, much stressed by migration specialists, consists of individual investments in education, whose returns (and, consequently, levels) may be higher if associated to the possibility of migration towards countries with higher skill premiums.

Besides its immediate policy relevance, the study of migration and innovation has the potential to enhance our theoretical understanding of innovation processes to the extent that it deals with at least three issues of general relevance:

1. The economics and management of knowledge diffusion, in relation to physical and cultural political distance (between individuals and/or organizations), as well as political and administrative boundaries;
2. The relationship between innovation and development, with special emphasis on whether the former may work in the direction of increasing or decreasing worldwide or regional inequalities;
3. The emerging role of organizations such as MNCs and world-leading institutions of higher education in structuring STEM migration flows, and the resulting knowledge flows.

This special issue aims to bring together scholars working on migration, innovation or development, and with an interest in the aforementioned debates. We welcome theoretical, empirical and methodological studies focusing on destination or origin countries that can cast light on the impact of STEM migration on scientific research and innovation activities in both destination and origin countries. We would strongly encourage contributions exploring the experiences in developing countries as well as smaller countries that have previously received only limited research attention.

Possible topics include:

- The mobility decisions of STEM migrants (constraints and incentives to outgoing, return and circular migration; positive vs negative self-selection; role of diaspora ties).
- The role and nature of STEM migrants' networks and how these shape scientific development and innovation in their destination and home countries.
- The role of STEM migrants in shaping academic entrepreneurship and university-industry collaboration.
- The effect of changes in migration rules on STEM workers' mobility and international collaborations,
- Areas of tension between migration and higher education or research policies.
- Differences in training and career pathways of STEM migrants and native-born workers within organizations and science system, including academics.
- The role of MNCs as drivers of STEM workers' cross-country mobility and circular migration.
- Historical studies of STEM migration and/or long term effects on the innovation in destination countries.

Workshop

- Special session at the “Organisation, Economics and Policy of Scientific Research” workshop, University of Bath (UK), 27-28 April 2018

A special session of the “Organisation, Economics and Policy of Scientific Research” workshop will be dedicated to the theme of Migration, Research, and Innovation. Although the maximum number of accepted papers will be rather low, the workshop will offer opportunities for potential contributors to obtain feedback on proposed submissions and offer the possibility to meet in person. To participate, please see the call for papers and submit a full paper at <https://www.eventsforce.net/uob/9/home> by 31 January 2018.

- **Submission deadline: 30 September 2018**
- Submission platform: <https://www.eventsforce.net/uob/10/home>
- Submissions are accepted from 1 June 2018
- Expected publication: late 2019 or early 2020

For questions regarding the submission site please contact: researchoffice@management.bath.ac.uk
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