The global competition for talent: Life science and biotech careers, international mobility, and competitiveness

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AIMEE KUVIK
The Global Competition for Talent: Life Science and Biotech Careers, International Mobility, and Competitiveness

ACADEMISCH PROEFSCHRIFT

ter verkrijging van de graad van doctor
aan de Universiteit van Amsterdam
op gezag van de Rector Magnificus
   Prof. dr. D.C. van den Boom

ten overstaan van een door het College voor Promoties ingestelde
commissie, in het openbaar te verdedigen in de Agnietenkapel
   op donderdag 28 mei 2015, te 12:00 uur

doors

Aimee Nicole Kuvik

geboren te Stuttgart, Duitsland
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Dr. P. Raghuram

Faculteit der Maatschappij- en Gedragswetenschappen
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Many people and institutes have helped shape this project and me as a researcher, and I am truly indebted to the time they spent, their knowledge, and the experiences together.

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Additionally, I would especially like to express my gratitude to the Young European Biotech Network (YEBN) and those who partnered with me to launch the Careers in Life Sciences (CiLS) scientist survey, as well as the Nature group who hosted a link to the survey online on Naturejobs. Special thanks goes to those who volunteered as part of the core team of our Careers in Life Sciences (CiLS) project – Emilia Daniłowicz-Luebert, who took on the role as CiLS project leader within YEBN, and also Tabea Dierker, Dominik Heinzmann, Alba Olivares Polo, and Olga Goncharova – for providing a truly perfect, international, interdisciplinary partnership. I will never forget our first meeting in Bern, Switzerland, where I flew in without knowing what to expect, and left with a new fabulous team and the birth of the CiLS project. It was the kind of partnership that not only involved a mutually shared interest and great synergies in a project, but one that involved lots of smiles as well as focused meetings, whether on Skype, email exchange or in person. Thanks also to all those at YEBN who helped facilitating contacts to assist our survey data collection – and here special thanks goes to Deobra Keller and Francesco Lescai – as well as the many others at YEBN who were involved. I am also grateful to YEBN as a whole for embracing the CiLS project, and for providing opportunities to present the research results to such an enthusiastic, inspiring group of life scientists. And not only just to present (and to be present), but to be seen as a valuable scientist and voting member of YEBN, despite not being a life scientist.

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Thinking back at the names listed of those that helped me during this project, individuals from more than 15 different countries, worked closely with me and influenced. Additionally, people from 69 countries took the time to share their thoughts and experiences through the CiLS survey. People may debate what global skilled, scientific, or student mobility will or should bring, but it is evident that changes are happening! My greatest wish is that at least one person will be inspired by this research and advance the research topic further than I ever could alone.
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acknowledgements</td>
<td>i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table of Contents</td>
<td>iv</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>List of Tables, Figures, and Boxes</td>
<td>vii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table of Abbreviations</td>
<td>ix</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Introduction – A global competition for talent in view of the knowledge economy</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The global competition for talent: Key concerns</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research questions</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relevance of research on the global competition for talent: Recent global changes</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution to the literature</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Structure of the study</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PART I: WHAT STRUCTURES THE GLOBAL COMPETITION FOR TALENT?</strong></td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 1: The Changed Nature of Economic Competitiveness and Global Competition – The Increasing Roles of Knowledge and Mobility</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The difficulties in defining competitiveness</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The merging of work on competitiveness and the workforce</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conclusion</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 2: Skilled Migration and the Global Competition for Talent – Recent Developments and Theoretical Considerations</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skilled migration: Definitions, statistics, and typologies</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Migration theory and approaches relevant to assessing skilled migration</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location choice</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New paradigms in skilled migration: Skilled migration, globalization, and competitiveness</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conclusion</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 3: Study Methodology and Analytical Framework – Assessing the Global Competition for Talent</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research objectives</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research challenges</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research questions and methods of data collection</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section</td>
<td>Page</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessing decisions related to skilled and scientific mobility</td>
<td>152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CiLS survey results: Which countries globally would life scientist like to work in?</td>
<td>158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion of framework: What influences scientific mobility among life scientists?</td>
<td>163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conclusion</td>
<td>167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 8: Life Science Career Situations and Strategies –Competitiveness and International Mobility</td>
<td>169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life science and biotechnology competitiveness</td>
<td>172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Effect of moving abroad on a career in life sciences -- Assessing the brain drain, brain gain, brain circulation paradigms</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conclusion</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONCLUSIONS</td>
<td>203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 9: Conclusions – The Global Competition for Talent, its Development and Implications for Life Science Careers</td>
<td>204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research questions</td>
<td>205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theoretical lens: Merging research on competitiveness and immigration</td>
<td>206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methods</td>
<td>210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Productivity, People, Place, and Policy framework as applied to life science careers</td>
<td>211</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advancing theory on the global competition for talent</td>
<td>216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REFERENCES</td>
<td>222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUMMARY</td>
<td>239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAMENVATTING</td>
<td>244</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APPENDICES</td>
<td>248</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix A: CiLS survey collectors and interviews</td>
<td>248</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix B: CiLS sample characteristics</td>
<td>249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix C: CiLS Conference presentations and publications</td>
<td>253</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix D: International statistical sources</td>
<td>254</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix E: Attractiveness of top 5 countries listed as first choice in CiLS study by categories</td>
<td>258</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LIST OF TABLES, FIGURES, AND BOXES

List of tables

TABLE 1 RESEARCH QUESTIONS .................................................................................................................................. 4
TABLE 3 TEMPORARY WORKERS ADMITTED UNDER SKILL-BASED CATEGORIES ............................................. 26
TABLE 4 TRENDS IN THE NUMBER OF FOREIGN STUDENTS ENROLLED OUTSIDE THEIR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN, BY REGION OF DESTINATION AND ORIGIN (2000 TO 2010, IN REVERSE ORDER) .... 32
TABLE 5 SHARE OF INTERNATIONAL/FOREIGN STUDENTS IN SELECT COUNTRIES, AS TOTAL %, INDEX OF GROWTH SINCE 2000, AND SHARE OF INDIAN AND CHINESE CITIZENS, 2008 ............. 33
TABLE 6 ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF SKILLED MIGRATION ....................................................................................... 43
TABLE 7 RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND METHODS .............................................................................................. 52
TABLE 8 COUNTRY COMPARISON: POLICY PRIORITIES AND STRATEGIES FOR HIGH-SKILLED MIGRATION, 2009 ........................................................................................................................................... 82
TABLE 9 PROFILE OF EUROPEAN GRADUATE EDUCATION IN BIOLOGY—INTERNATIONALIZATION AND GENDER ........................................................................................................................................... 119
TABLE 10 NUMBER OF POSTDOCTORATES IN LIFE SCIENCES IN EU-25 AND US, ACCORDING TO NATIONALITY, 2003 ..................................................................................................................................... 121
TABLE 11 HIGHEST ACADEMIC QUALIFICATION DESIRED - GENDER CROSSTABULATION AND BY COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP ..................................................................................................................................... 124
TABLE 12 NUMBER OF POSTDOCS ALREADY COMPLETED .............................................................................. 126
TABLE 13 EXPECTED TIME IN POSTDOC POSITION ........................................................................................... 126
TABLE 14 RESULTS OF THE GLOBSCI SURVEY ON EMPLOYMENT OF PUBLISHED SCIENTISTS ......... 138
TABLE 15 PERCENTAGE WHO MOVED ABROAD IN THE PAST AND MEAN INTEREST IN MOVING INTERNATIONALLY FOR LIFE SCIENCE WORK IN THE FUTURE .............................................................................. 141
TABLE 16 RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY COMPARED TO OTHER SKILLS AND EXPERIENCES NEEDED IN THE LIFE SCIENCE JOB MARKET (Q85) .............................................................. 143
TABLE 17 EXPERIENCE WITH AND ATTITUDES TOWARD INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY IN THE LIFE SCIENCES, BY COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP (OR RESIDENCE) ........................................................................................................ 145
TABLE 18 MAIN REASON FOR MOST RECENT AND LAST FIVE MOVES ....................................................... 147
TABLE 19 FACTORS FOR DECIDING WHERE TO MOVE IN THE FUTURE ...................................................... 155
TABLE 20 INFLUENCE ON DECISIONS TO MOVE/NOT TO MOVE ................................................................... 157
TABLE 21 TOP 5 ‘FIRST CHOICE’ DESTINATIONS FOR LIFE SCIENTISTS: BY CITIZENSHIP ............... 159
TABLE 22 REASONS COUNTRY IS FIRST CHOICE ............................................................................................ 162
TABLE 23 VARIOUS REGIONAL INDICATORS FOR BIOTECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY STRENGTH .......... 176
TABLE 24 GLOBAL RANKINGS, TOP 30 INSTITUTIONS PUBLISHING IN THE LIFE SCIENCES, BETWEEN 2004-2008* ..................................................................................................................................... 177
TABLE 25 COMPETITIVENESS IN CILS SURVEY: STRONG CITIES OR REGIONS (Q117)/ COUNTRIES (Q118) IN THE LIFE SCIENCES AND BIOTECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY ...................................................................................... 180
TABLE 26 COUNTRY OF CHOICE FOR FUTURE WORK BY CITIZENSHIP .................................................... 181
TABLE 27 INTEREST IN MOVING TO US, IN EUROPE, OR BOTH AMONG THOSE WILLING TO MOVE FOR WORK IN LIFE SCIENCES, BY CITIZENSHIP .......................................................................................... 186
TABLE 28 WHICH STATEMENT BEST DESCRIBES THE EFFECT OF MOVING ABROAD ON A CAREER IN THE LIFE SCIENCES? .................................................................................................................. 193
List of figures

FIGURE 1 LONG-TERM GROWTH IN THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS ENROLLED OUTSIDE OF THEIR COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP ..................................................27
FIGURE 2 CAREERS IN LIFE SCIENCES (CILS) SAMPLE - CITIZENSHIP ..................................................58
FIGURE 3 CAREERS IN LIFE SCIENCES (CILS) SAMPLE - COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE ..........................59
FIGURE 4 FRAMEWORK FOR UNDERSTANDING “BRAIN COMPETITION POLICY” ..................................................68
FIGURE 5 MAP OF THE EUROPEAN UNION, 2013 ..................................................................................72
FIGURE 6 EU BLUE CARD THRESHOLDS, REQUIRED SALARY AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE AVERAGE ANNUAL GROSS INCOME OF FULL-TIME EMPLOYED, 2010-12 ..........................................................80
FIGURE 7 POLICIES IN THE EU-27 TARGETING HUMAN RESOURCES FOR RESEARCH ..................92
FIGURE 8 PERCENTAGE OF FEMALES AMONG LIFE SCIENCE GRADUATES (ISC 42), TERTIARY TYPE A AND ADVANCED RESEARCH PROGRAMS, 2000 AND 2008 ..........................................................117
FIGURE 9 IMPORTANCE OF POSTDOC FOR CAREER IN INDUSTRY ...................................................127
FIGURE 10 INTEREST IN VARIOUS JOB POSTIONS IN THE LIFE SCIENCES IN THE NEXT 5 YEARS, MEAN SCORES ..................................................................................................................128
FIGURE 11 INTEREST IN WORKING FOR VARIOUS EMPLOYERS IN NEXT 5 YEARS (OR WITHIN 5 YEARS OF FINISHING STUDIES), MEAN SORES ...........................................................................129
FIGURE 12 INTEREST IN COMPANIES, BY SIZE OF COMPANY AND EDUCATION LEVELS ..................129
FIGURE 13 INTEREST IN WORKING ABROAD IN FUTURE, BASED ON PAST INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY ..........................................................................................................................140
FIGURE 14 FRAMEWORK ON SKILLED MOBILITY DESTINATION CHOICE FROM PAPADEMETRIOU ET AL. (2009) ......................................................................................................................153
FIGURE 15 MODIFIED FRAMEWORK FOR SCIENTIFIC FIELDS, BASED ON CILS RESEARCH ..................164
FIGURE 16 BIOTECHNOLOGY R&D EXPENDITURES IN THE BUSINESS SECTOR (TOP) COMPARED TO PUBLIC AND UNIVERSITY R&D EXPENDITURES (BOTTOM), 2012 OR LATEST AVAILABLE YEAR ..........................................................................................................................175
FIGURE 17 PERCEPTIONS OF LIFE SCIENCE OPPORTUNITIES IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES ..................183
FIGURE 18 MEAN INTEREST IN VARIOUS LENGTHS OF STAY AMONG INDIVIDUALS INTERESTED IN WORKING IN EITHER US AND/OR EUROPE. SCALE 1 (NOT INTERESTED AT ALL) TO 5 (EXTREMELY INTERESTED), ACADEMIC VERSUS INDUSTRY, BY COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP* 187

List of boxes

BOX 1 PATTERNS OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION ACCORDING TO UNESCO STATISTICS ........29
BOX 2 CRITERIA FOR MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES TO CHOOSE A LOCATION FOR OPERATIONS 39
BOX 3 COMPETITIONS TO BUILD COMPETITIVE BIOTECH REGIONS IN GERMANY .....................181
BOX 4 RESEARCH CAREER PARTICULARITIES IN THE UNITED STATES ..........................................191
BOX 5 BRAIN DRAIN, RETURN MIGRATION AND INNOVATION TRANSITIONS IN LITHUANIA 199
TABLE OF ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviations related to this research study:
CiLS    Careers in Life Sciences survey and study
YEBN    Young European Biotech Network

Geographic abbreviations:
BRIC    Brazil, Russia, India, and China
CEE     Central and Eastern European
EEA     European Economic Area
EFTA    European Free Trade Agreement
EU      European Union
OECD    Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

Abbreviations related to policy:
ERA     European Research Area
GATS    General Agreement on Trade in Services
HRST    Human resources in science and technology
IT      Information technology
MINT    Mathematics, information sciences, natural sciences, and technology
R&D     Research and development
S&E     Science and engineering
SET     Science, engineering and technology
STEM    Science, technology, engineering and mathematics