Bridging the literature on education migration

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“International education is critical to Canada’s success. In a highly competitive, knowledge-based global economy, ideas and innovation go hand in hand with job creation and economic growth. In short, international education is at the very heart of our current and future prosperity.”

[emphasis mine]
International education

- Globally framed as “war for talent”\(^1\) & “skills race”\(^2\)
- One of 22 priority sectors under Canada’s Global Markets Action Plan

International education consists of three waves:

- international students / education migrants
- partnerships with institutions abroad
- branch campuses / online courses
International students in Canada

- Approx. 305,000 students on visas (2013)
- Goal is to reach 450,000 students by 2022 (Canada’s International Education Strategy 2014)
  - Economic benefits – spending, jobs, tax revenues
  - Labour benefits – enhances skilled labour pool
Taking stock: A Canada-centred review

- Education migrant includes: elementary, secondary, and tertiary level students on visas; students not on visas (<6 months duration); unaccompanied children, transnational split-households
- English-language journal articles, books, reports published by August 2014
- Multidisciplinary: education, psychology, sociology, geography, economics, political science
- Out of approximately 170 documents (74% academic), by year published:
  - Pre-1990 (17%)
  - 1990-1999 (6%)
  - 2000-2009 (34%)
  - 2010-2014 (43%)
Main themes

1. Causes of international student mobility
   - Demand-side explanations / push-pull models / motivations
   - Supply-side explanations / structural conditions / institutional perspectives

2. Experiences of international students / education migrants
   - Academic, social, psychological well-being

3. Future intentions

4. Post-study transitions
   - Stayers
   - Returnees
The future: Policy implications

- Maintain/sustain (the reputation of) high quality Canadian education.
- Re-affirm social development and intercultural understanding as a priority.
- Support pathways to permanent residence and address barriers.
The future: A research agenda

- A comprehensive historical account of ISM to Canada
- ISM systems
- Employers’ knowledge and practices
- Students:
  - Definition of “Canadians”; definition of “quality”
  - Dissatisfied students, early leavers
  - Employment outcomes of returnees
  - Domestic students
- The effect of legal status on various outcomes
- Trajectories of IS who stay and comparisons with non-IS permanent migrants
Source: CUPE 3903, Total wages after tuition
References
