

CALL FOR PAPERS

International Geographical Union Commission
on 'Population and Vulnerability'

Themed session:

Mobility of global talent or new brain drain?

The 4th International Conference on Population Geographies

10-13 July 2007, Hong Kong

Conference website: <http://www.grm.cuhk.edu.hk/en/4ipgc.htm>

Session organisers:

Allan Findlay

Department of Geography, University of Dundee, UK

e-mail: a.m.findlay@dundee.ac.uk

Carmen Voigt-Graf

University of the South Pacific, Fiji

e-mail: voigtgraf_c@usp.ac.fj

Global talent has never been more mobile and seldom has there been such competition to recruit high-skill labour and students. The last decade has seen many advanced economies modify their skilled migration programmes to make them more attractive. It has also seen many countries shift their policies on international student mobility from a purely educational basis to one linked to longer term interests in recruiting future talent. At the same time there have been new concerns about talent loss expressed by many countries in the global south leading to recognition that the new mobility patterns and processes that have emerged constitute a 'brain strain' (Lowell et al, 2004) if not a new 'brain drain'. For those engaged as 'movers' in global talent flows the meanings and significance of international movement has also changed very significantly from of those expressed by migrants in a historical context. But new mobilities have not only brought new opportunities but also new vulnerabilities (Scheller and Urry, 2006).

As well as welcoming papers that evaluate the particular geographies unfolding around new talent recruitment programmes and the international student policies of specific countries of the world, it is hoped that some researchers will be able to explore the experience of highly skilled movers and of international students. It also hoped that attempts will be made to advance the understanding of sub-disciplines such as population geography in relation to the study of transient movers relocating their skills within intensely interconnected transnational communities. How should researchers approach

the socio-economic and cultural challenges created by forces such as those encouraging on the one hand global talent recruitment programmes and on the other the globalisation of higher education. Other researchers may prefer to present papers on policy issues relating to the best to implement global talent programmes or effective international student recruitment policies.

We will welcome all papers on high skill mobility and international student mobility as long as they prioritise interest in place and space and as long as they are based on rigorous research.

Paper themes may include (but are not limited to):

- High skill mobility in an era of globalisation: brain drain, brain strain or brain exchange?
- Talent attraction programmes: an evaluation of how states compete for global skills
- Drivers of change in international student mobility
- Exploring the meaning of international skill mobility/international education from the perspective of the mover
- Methodological challenges in researching international skill mobility
- Global talent flows and the new mobilities paradigm
- Policy perspectives from the Global South in an era of high skill mobility

If you are interested in presenting a paper in the session, please send an abstract (of about 250 words) for possible inclusion to Allan Findlay (a.m.findlay@dundee.ac.uk) by 20th November 2006. Authors of accepted papers should register with the conference organizer by 20 December 2006. For more information on the conference in which this session will be organised, please see <http://www.grm.cuhk.edu.hk/en/4ipgc.htm> .