

CORD invites you to attend a talk by:

Heidi Pedersen

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

UCENT 620A

Downtown Phoenix campus

11:00am – 12:00pm

Aarhus University, Denmark

Are PhDs in Private Sector Employment Voluntarily? Evidence of Push and Pull Effects on Mobility Choices

Abstract

In Denmark, policy makers have intensified education of PhDs to ensure flows of researchers to the private sector and thereby increase knowledge transfer. However, only few studies have investigated motivations behind sector mobility of PhD graduates. This paper examines push and pull effects on mobility choices by using indicators. I estimate transition rates to private sector employment by use of duration models on panel data. The analyzes show that preference and ability for doing academic science reduces transition rates to the private sector while research jobs and earnings potential are main attractors to work in the private sector. Hence, both push and pull effects determine sector mobility. However, only limited sector mobility is observed after the initial sector choice. The findings questions whether the magnitude of sector transitions and thereby the degree of knowledge transfers across sectors are satisfactory from a policy perspective.