

## Highly skilled migration and international flows of Talent, Knowledge and Capital

### THE PROJECT



#### We've launched a new project.

**TKC is a project** funded by the French National Research Agency (ANR)

and launched early on in 2018. TKC is the acronym for "Highly skilled migration and international flows of **T**alent, **K**nowledge and **C**apital". The project aims to improve our understanding of whether and how highly skilled migrants activate their social networks and leverage their role as international knowledge gatekeepers, contribute to solve cross-border information problems, and transform the brain drain into brain gain and brain circulation.

**What we do.** TKC is a theoretical and empirical project, whose deliverables will consist in research papers and open access datasets. Its ambition is to enrich the debate on migration on a global scale, but especially in Europe and France, where the dominant focus on low skilled or refugee immigration both obscures

the importance of highly skilled flows and contributes to negative stereotyping. TKC will be articulated in six work-packages, taking a complementary approach between the macro (country), meso (firm), and micro (individual) levels of analysis.

TKC focuses on the diaspora role of highly skilled migrants, and examines their economic role through the lens of different disciplinary approaches, **ranging from the geography of innovation, the economics of migration, and international business studies.**

**How do we do it.** TKC has a strong engagement towards collecting micro-data concerning specific categories of very highly skilled workers, such as inventors, scientists and executives, with the migrant status to be ascertained by available biographic information and/or name analysis. These data may provide a suitable and interesting alternative to more classic data sources, both because of their detail and for their pointing at homogenous professional groups, rather than generically tertiary educated workers.

**The team.** TKC is led by Ernest Miguelez, CNRS research fellow attached to the GREThA-Université de Bordeaux.

From Bordeaux, the project also counts with the participation of Francesco Lissoni, Valerio Sterzi, Eric Rougier, Karine Onfroy and, lately, Massimiliano Coda-Zabetta and Christian Chacua. Other contributors include Stefano Breschi (Bocconi, Italy), Edoardo Ferrucci (LUISS, Italy) and Paul Jensen (Melbourne, Australia).



#### TKC at the Annual Meeting of the Italian Society of Economists 2018

Francesco Lissoni has recently represented the TKC team at the Roundtable on the "Local effects of immigration", RSA-SIE (Annual Scientific Meeting of the Italian Society of Economists), in Bologna (25-26 October). He presented an overview of recent work on migration by innovation economists, including the TKC itself. Other participants to the Roundtable were Alessandra Faggian (Gran Sasso Science Institute, L'Aquila) and Massimiliano Bratti (University of Milan), who dealt with the impact of migration on, respectively, the labour market and entrepreneurship. Alessandra Venturini (University of Turin) chaired.



#### TKC contributes to the Triple Helix Conference 2018

The TKC team has recently participated in the roundtable "STEM Migrants: Their Role in Research and Innovation", at the Triple Helix Conference 2018, in Manchester (5-8 September). Highly skilled workers play a central role in both today's knowledge economy and cross-country labour



mobility. Amongst these, 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. Among the roundtable participants, Max Nathan (University of Birmingham) reviewed the relationship between skilled migration and innovation, with a focus of urban economics. Then, Cornelia Lawson (University of Bath) presented their recent work on academic of foreign origin and their different engagement with local or foreign actors, with respect to natives. On her side, Shiri M. Breznitz (University of Toronto), presented results of a recent paper discussing student migration and academic entrepreneurship. Finally, Ernest Miguelez (CNRS-University of Bordeaux), PI of the TKC project, presented some of the project results of STEM workers' migration, diffusion of knowledge, and the internationalization of firms.

## WORKSHOP SERIES ON MIGRATION, GLOBALIZATION AND THE KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY

On November 28, 2018, Paris (CEPII premises) hosted the first edition of the "Workshop Series on Migration, Globalization and the Knowledge Economy", co-organized by the CEPII, the Paris School of Economics (PSE), and the College of Management of Technology (CDM) at the EPFL, in a consortium including Utrecht University, GREThA CNRS UMR 5113 at the Université de Bordeaux (by TKC team), and ICRIS Bocconi University.

The Series consist on four workshops in as many cities. Starting in Paris, it will be followed up in Utrecht (Spring 2019), Milan (Spring 2020) and Bordeaux (Fall 2020).



**William Kerr**, from Harvard Business School, and **Philippe Aghion**, from College de France and PSE, were the keynote speakers, who talk about the contribution of foreign-born talent to US innovation and the declining productivity of innovation and scientific teams. Regular presentations looked at the **contribution of immigrants to innovation and entrepreneurship, as well as the relationship between immigration and firm-level offshoring.**

On May 16, 2019, the second edition of the Workshop Series will be organized in Utrecht, hosted by the Economic Urban Transitions at Utrecht University. We expect to launch the call for papers soon, and hope to receive the same interest the Paris edition raised. We are glad to announce that **Ufuk Akcigit**, from the University of Chicago, and **Ina Ganguli**, from University of Massachusetts Amherst, will deliver the keynote talks.



## NEW PUBLICATION !

"Return migrants' self-selection: Evidence for Indian inventors" NATIONAL BUREAU OF ECONOMIC RESEARCH Working Paper 24809, by Stefano Breschi, Francesco Lissoni and Ernest Miguelez

TKC members just published an NBER working paper on the determinants of return migration of Indian-origin inventors in the US. Based on an original dataset linking patent data and biographical information for a large sample of US immigrant inventors with Indian names and surnames, specialized in ICT technologies, we investigate the rate and determinants of return migration. For each individual in the dataset, we both estimate the year of entry in the US, the likely entry channel (work or education), and the permanence spell up to either the return to India or right truncation.

By means of survival analysis, we then provide exploratory estimates of the probability of return migration as a function of the conditions at migration (age, education, patenting record, migration motives, and migration cohort) as well as of some activities undertaken while abroad (education and patenting). We find both evidence of negative self-selection with respect to educational achievements in the US and of positive self-selection with respect to patenting propensity. Based on the analysis of time-dependence of the return hazard ratios, return work migrants appear to be negatively self-selected with respect to unobservable skills acquired abroad, while evidence for education migrants is less conclusive.

This paper is going to be published in a forthcoming book compilation, *The Role of Immigrants and Foreign Students in Science, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship*, edited by Ina Ganguli, Shulamit Kahn, Megan MacGarvie (Chicago University Press).

## MEET THE TEAM !



ERNEST MIGUELEZ

> Ernest Miguelez is the principal investigator of the TKC project. He is researcher Fellow (Chargé de Recherche) at the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), attached to the GREThA – UMR CNRS 5113, University of Bordeaux. He is the principal investigator of the TKC project.

> His research interests cover economic geography, migration and innovation. He received his PhD from the University of Barcelona in 2013. Before joining the GREThA – UMR CNRS 5113, he held a Research Economist Position at the Economics and Statistics Division of the World Intellectual Property Organization, a UN specialised agency based in Geneva.

> He has also spent time as a Visitor at the University of Manchester, the Kiel Institute for the World Economy, Bocconi University and the Rotman School of Management (University of Toronto). He currently holds a research visiting position at AQR-IREA (University of Barcelona), and is Research Affiliate at the Centre for Research and Analysis of Migration (CReAM-UCL).



MASSIMILANO CODA-ZABETTA

> Massimiliano Coda Zabetta has been recently hired as a post-doc of the TKC project. He holds a Ph.D. in Economics of Innovation, Complexity and Knowledge from University of Turin (2018), a M.A. in Economics & Complexity from Collegio Carlo Alberto (2014) and a M.Sc. in Economics, Institutions and Territory from University of Turin (2013).

> From 2012 to 2015 he has been working at SiTI-Polytechnic of Turin (Higher Institute on Territorial Systems for Innovation) within the Environmental and Urban Unit, mainly focusing on projects regarding sustainability and local development.

> His current main research interests are in the field of economics of science and innovation. In particular, he devoted his PhD to the empirical analysis of academics' career, aiming at understanding the determinants of scientists' individual productivity focusing on the early career phase. At the same time, he is interested in exploring empirically the effect of international mobility of the highly-skilled on knowledge diffusion and spillovers, analyzing the processes of globalization of science and related impacts on the competitiveness of countries' scientific systems.